

Tomorrow

Date lines
Chamberlain's birth,
Kipling's death...
Anniversaries of 1986

Lip twisting
A sneaky Korean
martial art that's
ideal for women

Old-fashioned?
David Watt takes
a critical look
at his own values

No winners
David Miller on the
ILEA's resistance
to competitive sport

Portfolio

Yesterday's Times Portfolio
competition prize of £2,000 was
won by Mr Peter Woodrow of
Enfield, Middlesex. Portfolio
list, page 16. Rules and how to
play, Information Service, back
page.

Afghanistan gives pullout timetable

The Afghan Government has
informally presented a timetable
for the withdrawal of all
Soviet troops from Afghanistan
within a one-year period as part
of an overall accord, a senior
US State Department official
disclosed. Page 8

Airport role for troops

The military could well take a
greater role in airport security,
Mr Michael Spicer, minister for
aviation, said when he visited
Heathrow to see a security
exercise involving troops and
armed police. Page 2

Spiegel dies

Sam Spiegel, the legendary
Hollywood producer who made
The Bridge on the River Kwai
and *Lawrence of Arabia*, has
died. Obituary, page 14
Back page

Cabinet quits

Pakistan Cabinet members have
offered their resignations to
allow the restructuring of the
Government after the repeal of
martial law. Page 7

Test-tube quartet

Four test-tube babies, three
boys and a girl, were born at the
Humana Hospital Wellington,
St John's Wood, London, on
New Year's Day. Page 5

Fewer failures

Business failures in England
and Wales fell for the first time
in seven years in 1985, by 3.5
per cent to 20,943. Page 17

Beach battle

Riot police opened fire on
thousands of blacks storming an
Indians-only beach in Durban,
terrifying bathers and attacking
cars with stones and bottles.
Mandela rethink, page 5

James triumphs

The names of James and
Elizabeth remained the parents'
most popular choices for their
children, according to a reader's
analysis of announcements in
The Times in 1985. Letters, page 13

GEC sued

Plessey is suing GEC in the US,
claiming GEC failed to extend its
£12 billion takeover offer to
Plessey's American shareholders.
Page 17

Endangered fish

The Food and Agriculture
Organization is sending an
official to London for urgent
talks, after warnings that the
waters off the Falklands are
being seriously over-fished. Page 8

Television first

All but 2 per cent of British
households now have a tele-
vision set, while 3 per cent lack
exclusive use of indoor baths or
lavatories. Page 3

Geldof bar

Bob Geldof was banned from the
honours list because he is Irish
and his famine relief work was
outside the Commonwealth,
Whitchell sources said. Page 2

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Americans arrive for next round of Westland battle

● A team of American businessmen arrived in Britain yesterday to campaign for acceptance of their Westland helicopter rescue package.
● Supporters of the Sikorsky bid say that unlike the rival European consortium's package, their proposals contain no threats and no favours.
● The Cabinet wrangle continued with conflict over wording of the Prime Minister's reply to Westland's request for assurances on future government work.
● In Whitehall, the two sides continued arguments over jobs, government contracts and outside markets.

By Philip Webster, Political Reporter

A team of prominent officials from United Technologies and Sikorsky, the American companies engaged in the struggle over the future of Westland helicopters, arrived in London last night to launch an offensive to defeat the counter European offer backed by Mr Michael Heseltine, the Secretary of State for Defence.

With Westland's shareholders being sent details of the European consortium's £73.1 million bid today, the arrival of the Americans, who will be joined by representatives from Fiat, their Italian partners, heightened speculation that an improved offer will be put to the company soon to secure the deal.

But sources close to the American-Italian bid, while not ruling out an improvement in the terms on the table, made clear that they would try to convince the Westland board and its shareholders that their present offer is superior to that of the European consortium of British Aerospace, GEC, MBB of West Germany, Aerospaciale of France and Agusta of Italy.

The arrival of Sikorsky coincided with further twists in the Whitehall and Cabinet battle over Westland as government sources generally friendly towards the American-Italian solution intervened to correct what they said were "misconceptions" put out by other government sources in favour of the European deal.

At the same time it emerged that there had been considerable wrangling between the Ministry of Defence and the Department of Trade and Industry on Tuesday over the contents of the reply the Prime Minister will send today to the Westland chairman, Sir John Cuckney, who has asked for assurances that Westland's participation in joint European projects would not be jeopardized if it takes the American offer.

Mrs Thatcher consulted Mr Leon Brittan, the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, Mr Heseltine, and other government departments. Mr Heseltine is understood to have argued for a far longer reply than that suggested by Mr Brittan.

While both agreed that the company should be told there would be no question of discrimination against it by the Ministry of Defence, Mr Heseltine wanted it spelt out that the Government could not of course bind the European companies to allow Westland into collaborative deals.

This view was apparently supported by the law officers and it was said last night that Westland might not get the cast iron assurance it wanted.

It was clear last night that the American-Italian combination plans to take a much higher profile in the run-up to the January 14 shareholders' meeting which will decide on a rescue package. The move reflects the view that Mr Heseltine and other supporters of the European deal have been making the running in the propaganda battle.

Company officials are making themselves available to Westland board members and any shareholders who want to see them. Sources close to the bid said last night that the offer was coherent, well-balanced and, unlike the European deal, contained "no threats and no favours".

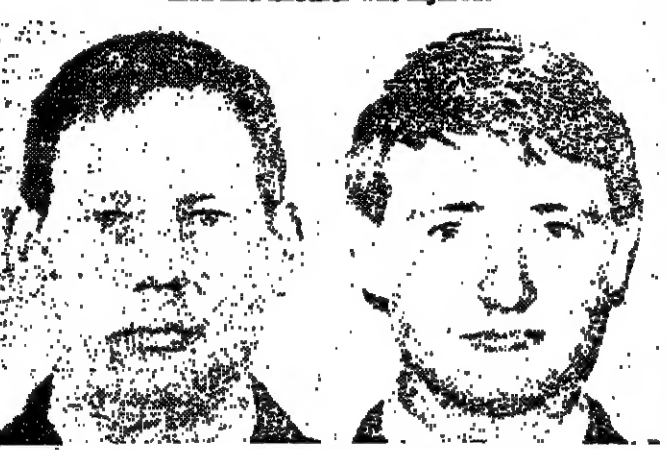
The campaign will concentrate on the potential benefits to Westland of building the Sikorsky Black Hawk helicopter, which it is said could transform the company's prospects in terms of markets and work. It is understood the company will be told that it can build up to 250 Black Hawks, provided the customers can be found.

American bid sources also argue that the private sector solution is preferable for Westland.

Continued on back page, col 1



The scene of the litter-bin booby trap where two officers died and another was injured.



Constable James McCandless (left) and reserve constable Michael Williams, who died in the explosion.

IRA midnight blast kills two policemen

From Our Correspondent, Belfast

Church bells were still ringing in the new year yesterday when the Provisional IRA made its first attack of 1986 against the security forces in Northern Ireland, killing two policemen and seriously injuring a third.

Several pounds of commercial gelignite hidden in a litter bin in the centre of Armagh, Ireland's ecclesiastical capital, were detonated by radio control at a minute past midnight as an RUC patrol checked shop in Thomas Street.

A 38-year-old regular officer and a reservist walking past the bin were killed instantly. The third member of the patrol, a reservist on the opposite side of the road, suffered severe leg injuries.

The men who died were Constable Samuel Andrew McCandless aged 38, a married man with two children who joined the police four years ago, and full-time reserve Constable Michael Jonathan Williams, aged 24, who joined the RUC in 1984. He was married, but had no children. Both men lived at Portadown and were stationed in Armagh.

Three terrorists had taken over a house nearly six hours earlier, holding the family at gunpoint. They escaped immediately after the blast. Some residents said they heard several shots fired.

With a heavy military cordon

Continued on back page, col 6

United's happy new year

A crowd of 43,095 took the opportunity to clear their new year hangovers in the heady atmosphere of Old Trafford yesterday, and saw Manchester United increase their breathing space at the top of the first division with a 1-0 victory over lowly Birmingham City.

With Liverpool held 2-2 at home by Sheffield Wednesday, and Chelsea's match with West Ham United postponed, Colin Gibson's goal put United five points clear of Everton.

In the second division, wins for Norwich City and Portsmouth helped them open up a six-point lead. But in the news for the wrong reason was Gary MacDonald, of Darlington, the first player to be sent off in 1986.

In racing, Phil Tuck has been replaced by Peter Scudamore as the regular rider of Burrough Hill Lad. Pages 20-23

Angry Peres lashes PLO Libya links

From Ian Murray, Jerusalem

A clear demand for international action against all countries that help terrorists, and especially against Libya, was made yesterday by Mr Shimon Peres, the Israeli Prime Minister.

In a hard-hitting statement to the Knesset, he called for international collaboration backed by deepened intelligence ties between all responsible countries "to put an end to this ugly and dangerous hybrid".

He was critical of the "forgiveness" and "likemindedness" of some Western countries towards "the chief terrorist organization, the Palestine Liberation Organization."

"The PLO had for years been given the benefit of assumptions which had no basis in reality. One was that it would change character, from a violent to a political organization.

A second, he said, was that the PLO comprised extremists and moderates. "It is no consolation to the murdered that after their murder words of consolation said, regret, are uttered."

He called the group run by Abu Nidal a "PLO offshoot". Apparently responsible for last week's attacks in Rome and Vienna, during 1985 it had carried out 33 attacks in which about 90 people were killed and 350 wounded, he said.

"This organization does not exist in outer space," he said. "It has bases in defined places on this planet. It has bases of operation in Syria and in Libya."

Libya was not merely a state in which crime exists but a one state in crime in all possible forms: organized crime, state crime, disguised crime, crime against other countries and crime against individuals.

He said: "From Libya come persons bearing pistols with silencers, and so: it return persons who have committed cold-blooded murder. Libya finances terrorism, holds receptions for terrorists and issues declarations lauding their supposedly heroic operations."

He said that if forgiveness towards violent organizations does not stop, if the countries abetting murder are not struck at, the war against terrorism will never be won."

Belgians interrogate two Arabs on airport killings

From Richard Owen, Brussels

Two suspected Arab terrorists who arrived in Brussels the day after the massacres at Rome and Vienna airports last week have been arrested by Belgian police.

The Belgian Public Prosecutor's office confirmed that the two men were being held but declined to give their names or nationalities. The police would not say whether they were definitely linked to the attacks at the two airports.

Authorities in Western Europe have been co-ordinating a search for suspected Arab terrorists with the United States in the aftermath of the massacres.

The two men being questioned in Belgium arrived at Brussels airport on Saturday from Athens. Police sources said one was travelling on a passport which registered him as a suspected terrorist when it was fed into the airport immigration computers. Police said one of the men had attended a "terrorist training camp" in Lebanon.

Belgian police uncovered a large cache of arms and bomb-making equipment when they followed the two Arabs to the home of an illegal arms dealer who met them at the airport. The dealer, a Belgian, took them to a video shop in Hasselt, 40 miles from Brussels, which he has used as a cover for gun-running activities.

The police found explosives at the shop and in the dealer's home, together with forged passports and machine-guns, rifles and hand grenades.

Tories 'planned to restrict immigration of blacks'

By David Walker, Social Policy Correspondent

Thirty years ago when Britain's non-white population was less than 2 per cent of its present level, the Conservative government secretly planned to restrict black immigration.

A Cabinet paper of 1955 released yesterday under the rule which protects official records for at least 30 years, speaks of "the social consequences of the increasing flow of West Indian immigrants into this country being sufficiently serious to compel the Government to take action".

The Home Secretary Mr Gwilym Lloyd George expressed his deep worry at the "influx" of Indians and Pakistanis, then arriving in Britain at the rate of between 6,000 and 7,000 a year.

Senior Conservatives, including Sir Winston Churchill, Prime Minister until April 1955, and Lord Salisbury, Lord President of the Council, are on record fearing for Britain's "racial stock". Other Cabinet members saw the problem as inadequate housing for the new arrivals in south London and Birmingham.

The Cabinet agreed that legislation was necessary "sooner or later".

But in the event they could not agree on how non-white immigrants from the colonies could be controlled without Britain appearing to discriminate racially, though one minister pointed out that immigration officials at entry ports could be encouraged to "exercise such discrimination as we think desirable".

The problem was shelved: a Cabinet committee was set up and legislation to control Commonwealth immigration was deferred until 1962.

The Cabinet papers for 1955, heavily "weeded" by the Civil Service to excise any reference to such sensitive matters as Princess Margaret's relationship with Group Captain Townsend and relations with Egypt in the year before the Suez expedition. But disclosures include:

● The uneven state of Anglo-American relations. Churchill and President Eisenhower were close enough for the latter to want to paint a portrait of the Prime Minister and refer to Churchill's being easier to paint in his wartime boiler suit than in statesman's pin-stripes. But Anthony Eden, who succeeded Churchill during 1955, did not trust John Foster Dulles, the American Secretary of State.

● The decision, several years before it became public, to purchase American artillery capable of carrying nuclear shells to be deployed in Europe.

● Military planning to bomb Israel in the event of a breach of the pact by which Britain guaranteed Jordan's security.

● Discussion about requiring house builders to install nuclear shelters in all new dwellings.

● The British refusal to allow the early release of imprisoned Admiral Doenitz, the German war criminal, on the grounds that he was young and able enough to lead a nationalist revival in West Germany.

● Successive Cabinet orders to the BBC to change or delete programmes on such subjects as industrial relations and Cyprus.

● Trouble with the IRA including the theft of arms and ammunition from British Army barracks the Prime Minister ordered "unobtrusive" precautions.

Israel bombing plan, page 2

Gorbachov and Reagan swap pledges of peace

From Christopher Thomas, Washington

President Reagan and Mr Mikhail Gorbachov, the Soviet leader, addressed each other's peoples on television yesterday, promising to reduce mistrust and suspicion, to make drastic cuts in nuclear arsenals and to bring about lasting peace.

The leaders, their speeches free of polemics and recrimination, dedicated the superpowers to striving to lift the threat of nuclear destruction.

The addresses, the first of their kind, together reached a potential audience of more than 500 million people. It was 1pm in Washington and 9pm in Moscow when the simultaneous broadcasts began. To Americans, Mr Gorbachov said: "I see a good augury in the way we are beginning the New Year." And to the Soviet people Mr Reagan declared: "Let's work together to make it a year of peace."

Without directly mentioning his controversial Star Wars initiative, Mr Reagan who read closely from his autograph, said both the US and the Soviet Union were separately researching the possibilities of applying new technologies to the cause of defence, relying increasingly for security on defence systems that threatened no one.

If these technologies become a reality it is my dream to one day free us all from the threat of nuclear destruction," he said.

It is understood that last night's exchange of messages was agreed only in recent days after repeated US pressure. Considerable significance has been read into the Kremlin's eventual agreement.

Mr Gorbachov's broadcast, which like Mr Reagan's was video-taped over the weekend and made available to television networks yesterday through each other's embassies, began with the Soviet leader striding across the room towards a heavily ornate desk standing before a backdrop of patterned green wall covering. The US networks, which used an official Soviet translation, broadcast Mr Reagan's address immediately afterwards.

In a dig at alleged Soviet human rights violations, Mr Reagan said progress in resolving humanitarian issues in a spirit of cooperation would be a long way towards making 1986 a better year for all. With Afghanistan in mind, the President said he had proposed several concrete steps to help to resolve armed regional conflicts.

But in general his address was a far cry from the rancorous speeches he used to deliver against the Soviet Union, which he once described as an evil empire. "The American people do not wish the Soviet people any harm," he said yesterday.

Both addresses mirrored the new constructive spirit of relations born at their Geneva summit in November. Mr Reagan even attempted some Russian. "Let us look forward to a future of *Chestnye Nebo* (clear sky) for all mankind. Thank you. *Spasibo*."

Mr Gorbachov, like Mr Reagan, emphasized that the superpowers should never be at war. In a barbed though oblique reference to Star Wars, which the Soviet Union bitterly opposes, he said: "It is senseless to seek greater security for oneself through new types of weapons."

Calling for a cut in nuclear arsenals and keeping space peaceful, he said he would very much like the Geneva arms control talks to be successful this year.

The Soviet leader added that he and Mr Reagan, as leaders and as human beings, were able at the Geneva summit to take the first steps towards overcoming mistrust and to "activate the factor of confidence". But he gave warning that the gap dividing them was still wide. To bridge it would not be easy.

"Bridging that gap would be a great feat - a feat our people are ready to perform for the sake of world peace."

Full texts, page 8
Leading article, page 13

\$160bn US deficit likely

The worsening US trade deficit - expected to reach \$160 billion (£111 billion) in 1986 - is casting doubts on world economic growth prospects. It also raises the question whether the dollar has fallen enough to improve Washington's trade balance.

For the first 11 months of last year the deficit totalled \$131.8 billion and analysts expect the figure for the whole of 1985 to have grown to \$145 billion.

The trade figures for November show a trade deficit of \$13.68 billion, compared with \$11.45 billion in October, despite a healthy export performance.

Exports for the month rose by 3.5 per cent to \$19.98 billion, with increased overseas sales of aircraft and parts, office equipment and agricultural products. Cars and other manufactured exports held up well.

Detail, page 17

HARRODS SALE

Starts Wednesday 8th January 9am to 7pm
Great Reductions on Harrods Cutlery

Highest quality silver-plated nickel silver cutlery in various patterns, guaranteed for over thirty years. Solid hardwood walnut-finish canteens in three sizes. All made exclusively for Harrods by Mappin & Webb in Sheffield, UK.

Illustrated "Bead" pattern. 127-piece set, including fish-cutters, for 12 persons.

Harrods Orig. Price £1,818

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Interest-free Credit £105 deposit and nine monthly payments of £105 each. Total credit price £1,050

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71 pieces set for 8 persons. Harrods Orig. Price £925 Sale Price £555

87-piece set, including fish-cutters, for 8 persons. Harrods Orig. Price £1,198 Sale Price £725

Silver & Cutlery Ground Floor. Carriage free over a wide area.

All reductions are from Harrods previous prices.

Interest-free Credit Agreements with 10 equal monthly payments, including deposit available on selected items of cutlery over £250, see example given. Ask for written details.

Sale Opening Hours: Wednesday 8th January 9am to 7pm, Thursday 9th January to Saturday 18th January 9am to 6pm. Monday 20th January to Friday 31st January 9am to 5pm. Wednesday 9am to 7pm. Saturday 9am to 6pm.

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Cabinet papers for 1955

Staffs made plans for invasion of Israel to parry threat to Jordan

Barely a year before British troops invaded Egypt in collusion with the Israeli army, top military planners in London were drawing up a detailed battle order for the bombing of Haifa, Tel Aviv and Jerusalem and the storming of Israeli strongholds by Royal Marine commandos.

A laconic message from the Ministry of Defence to Middle East headquarters noted: "We accept that some damage to civilian property and loss of civilian life may be occasioned in your attacks."

It added that the "inviolability of any holy places must be strictly preserved", referring to Muslim, Christian and Jewish shrines in Jerusalem.

During 1955 the Chiefs of Staff Committee based much of its military planning for the Middle East on the assumption that the Israelis were about to invade Jordan.

Foreign Office doctrine was that Britain would have quickly to fulfil its treaty obligations to the Arab kingdom. This was thought essential so that the crucial "Northern Tier" of Muslim countries facing the Soviet Union - Turkey, Iraq and Iran - would keep faith in their treaty obligations with Britain.

The Chiefs of Staff had no high opinion of Jordan's Arab Legion, saying it was "likely to be eliminated as an effective force very early on". British forces would then become engaged by air and sea. Royal Navy ships would bombard and blockade the Israeli coast. Commandos would move to Akaba and troops would move overland from Iraq to hold the Israelis at the Jordan river.

The papers from the 1955 archive show that Middle East politics were far from simple. While planning for an invasion of Israel, Britain was supplying the Jews with armaments, though Britain objected to the high-grade Mystere jets the French were then selling to Israel. At the same time Britain was anxious to continue the sale of arms to Egypt and other Arab countries to ensure Israeli-Arab "parity".

The Cabinet discussions show Harold Macmillan (now Lord Stockton), then Prime Minister of Defence, Foreign Secretary and Chancellor during 1955, saying that Britain was not spending enough in the Arab world to maintain its

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influence at a time when the Soviet Union was making a big push in the region. The purchase of arms by Colonel Nasser, the Egyptian leader, from Czechoslovakia caused a flurry of paper through the British Foreign Office, and defence and education establishments. The Cabinet wanted the teaching of English in the Middle East expanded.

By the end of the year the Chiefs of Staff had turned from planning an invasion of Israel to planning the Suez expedition. Much thought was also given to building up a strategic base for Britain in Lebanon to replace Suez, from which British forces were then withdrawing.

The need for a logistical and operations base in the eastern Mediterranean made British politicians anxious to solve the problem of Cyprus, where, during 1955, terrorist attacks by Greek Cypriot working union with Greece flared.

At one point it was suggested that the entire island be ceded to Greece in exchange for a permanent lease on military bases there.

During the year the Cabinet decided to buy the American Corporal weapons system; rocket artillery capable of delivering a battlefield nuclear warhead.

As a result it had to speed up the acquisition of a rocket-testing ground based on Suez Uist and Benbecula in the Hebrides. However this involved two difficulties: first, the crofters who want to build a statue of the Virgin Mary near the proposed rocket launch site, and second, the uninhabited island of Rockall which was in the middle of the range.

The papers show that the annexation of Rockall almost took place without the knowledge of the Prime Minister or the Cabinet. It was only through the intervention of Sir Ivone Kirkpatrick, head of the Foreign Office, that full ministerial approval was obtained when the island was annexed that year.

In July 1955 the Cabinet solemnly resolved that the Foreign Secretary, in conjunction with the Admiralty, should take what steps were needed to proclaim British sovereignty over Rockall in case it "should be taken by a Foreign Power to observe firing on the range". (Eventually the Ministry of Defence paid for the Virgin Mary's statue and the Admiralty sent a boat to claim Rockall.)

The nuclear threat was ever-present. The Cabinet was reluctant to abandon its programme for producing millions of gas masks for use in a nuclear war, though it conceded the masks would not be of much use. It was felt that if people got to know no more masks were being made it would be bad for morale. "The morale of the Services could hardly be maintained if they knew no provision was being made for the protection of families."

Worries about Cyprus caused one of several instances of direct pressure on the BBC. "The director general had on previous occasions responded very reasonably to representations that certain broadcasts might prove embarrassing to Her Majesty's Government", the Cabinet was told.

The Colonial Secretary was deputed to have a word with Sir Ian Jacob, then director general, to have him stop programmes that, for example, allowed Archbishop Makarios, the Greek Cypriot leader, to have a voice.

"The minutes of the Cabinet note that a broadcast was being planned by Woodrow Wyatt, then a Labour MP, but Mr Wyatt had 'offered to submit his programme to informal censorship'. However in reporting strikes that year the BBC 'had not been helpful'."

The BBC appears from the minutes to have been compliant. Sir Ian Jacob told the Cabinet that the main instrument of national broadcasting but the Government should take care that the newly-created independent television channel did not lower standards.

This, a note to Eden says, "opens up a tremendous problem in relation to the 'Daily Mirrorization' of the Press and of the country."

Tomorrow: Immigration and Mr Macmillan's memoirs



Ruth Ellis (above) the last woman hanged in Britain, was discussed in a cabinet debate about capital punishment in 1955.

Ministers faced a mounting campaign to abolish the death penalty in the wake of her execution in July 1955 for shooting her lover, but the papers disclosed that the Home Secretary, Mr Gwyllyn Lloyd-George, argued that public opinion alone was "an unreliable basis for a policy."

The right course for the government was to make more use of the Royal Prerogative of mercy, he said. The death penalty was suspended in 1965.



Mr Michael Spicer, minister for aviation, with troops patrolling Heathrow airport during a security exercise yesterday. He said their presence could become a regular feature. (Photograph: Chris Harris).

More troops at airport likely

A bigger role for the military could well be part of a package of security measures to be introduced at Heathrow Airport in the wake of the terrorist attacks in Vienna and Rome last week, Mr Michael Spicer, the minister responsible for aviation, said yesterday.

"We have a new situation now and it will demand new responses", he said as armoured tanks and troops with sub-machine guns patrolled the perimeter of the airport, while dozens of armed police worked inside and outside the terminals.

Their presence was part of a high-profile security exercise which coincided with Mr Spicer's visit. The minister said it was the main instrument of national broadcasting but the Government should take care that the newly-created independent television channel did not lower standards.

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Songs of Praise' boycotted

The BBC has cancelled a *Songs of Praise* television broadcast from Dungannon, Co Tyrone, because no Protestant congregations could be found to take part. Invitations went to 24 Protestant churches to join in the ecumenical broadcast from St Patrick's Roman Catholic Church in Dungannon but only three replied.

The programme was to be recorded for nationwide transmission on January 21, only two days before polling in the Ulster by-elections caused by the resignation of 15 Unionist MPs.

The Protestants' objection to taking part is understood to be rooted in their strong opposition to the Anglo-Irish agreement.

According to the recently arrived Church of Ireland rector, the Reverend Frederic Swann, his congregation felt it would be "inappropriate" at present. Methodist and Presbyterian ministers, who congregations have also refused, are making no comment.

The BBC said that *Songs of Praise* tried to give a picture of the whole community. "It would have been half the community only. We should not have been able to, or have wished to, conceal that. The result would have been an unsatisfactory programme."

Songs of Praise has recently been broadcast with complete intercommunal co-operation from three other Northern Ireland towns - Strabane and Larne and, from Letterkenny, just over the border in Co Donegal.

An unnamed *Saudi* prince has bought Balfour Wood, 40 acres near Colchester, Essex, to be a once-a-year picnic spot for his family and friends.

He paid £95,000 for the wood, at least seven centuries old.

Prince buys picnic wood

Humber Bridge toll went up 20 pence last night. Car drivers now pay £1.20 to cross one way. The bridge board has a debt of £230 million.

Bridge tolls up

Stuart Congreave, aged 18, shares the lead with John Hipsley with 29 points each at the end of round three in the Hastings Premier chess Tournament. One of his chief rivals, the Soviet Grand Master, Mikhail Chibrikov, has 'scarcely exerted himself' so far.

He agreed to a draw in 12 moves with Pisker in round three on Monday. In contrast, his compatriot Balashov drew a lively contested game with the Israeli Master, Greenfield.

White V Balashov, Black A Greenfield

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Television sets in all but 2% of British households

By Robin Young

The television set has become the most indispensable household appliance, overtaking the bath, the shower and the indoor lavatory. Only 2 per cent of British households now lack a television set, while 3 per cent go without exclusive use of indoor bathing and lavatory facilities.

Thereafter the most commonplaces of the average British home's fixtures and fittings is the refrigerator. Only 5 per cent of households do not have one. The ownership of vacuum cleaners has also risen to more than nine-tenths of households, while the number of homes with telephones has - at 78 per cent - increased by more than half in a decade.

The official HMSO handbook, *Britain 1986*, published today, says that Britain has experienced an economic recovery in the mid-1980s, with gross domestic product 2.75 per cent up in 1984 and now at a record level.

The improvement is reflected in rapidly rising ownership of telephones, freezers, central heating systems, music centres, audio equipment, video recorders and home computers.

Half of Britain's housing has been built since the Second World War, and two-thirds of households have full or part central heating, compared with only 43 per cent 10 years ago.

More than three-fifths of households have the use of at least one car or van, and 16 per cent have two or more.

There have been substantial rises in the consumption of poultry, pork, instant coffee, margarine and processed vegetables, but less home consumption of lamb, beef, bread, potatoes, eggs, milk, butter, sugar and tea. Alcohol consumption continues to advance, but unlike many other countries the British spend less on smoking, with more and more people giving up for health reasons.

A fifth of the population now take more than one main holiday each year, and though a significant proportion still take no holiday away from home, the number of holidays of four or more nights taken by British residents rose to 49 million in 1984. Fifteen million were

taken abroad, well over half being package holidays and one third taken in the most popular destination, Spain.

A tenth of the British workforce are now self-employed, though wages and salaries still account for 62 per cent of household income. The distribution of pre-tax income has remained relatively stable, with the lower half of income earners getting rather less than a quarter of the total, but wealth is much less evenly distributed. The top 1 per cent own more than a fifth of marketable wealth, the top 10 per cent have 56 per cent, the bottom half having a mere twenty-fifth of the money.

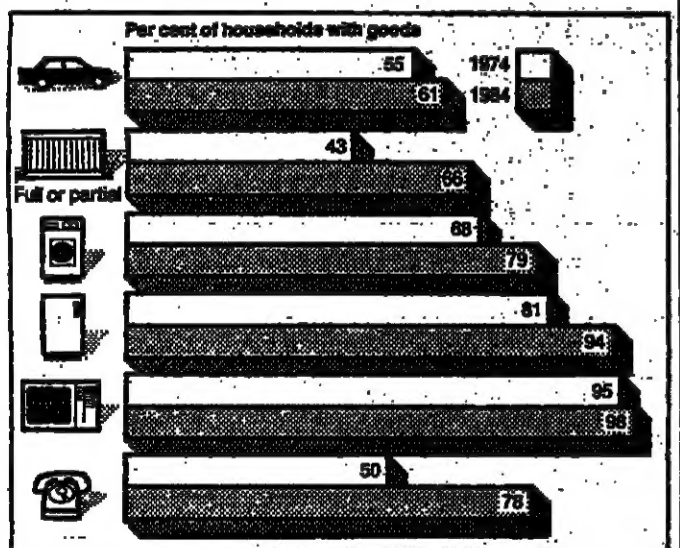
About half the households in Britain have a pet, with dogs (about 6 million) more popular than cats (more than 5 million). The human content of the average household has risen, though, to 2.64 persons, with 8 per cent of the population living on their own and 24 per cent of all households consisting of only one person.

Though five births outnumber deaths, average family size is below the level required for the replacement of the population. In 1984, however, emigration was 11 per cent lower than in 1983, and, unusually, there was a net inflow of 37,000 people from other parts of the world, so the projection is that Britain's population, at present 56.5 million and about the fifteenth largest in the world, will increase slowly, to about 58 million by 2011.

There are now 9.9 million children in Britain's 36,500 schools, where the pupil-teacher ratio is about 18 to one. The average secondary school has 10 minicomputers.

The nation's most popular pastime is walking. Thereafter, much influenced by television, snooker and darts are the most popular sporting activities for men, swimming and aerobics for women. In winter however the population returns to its priorities, and watches television for more than 20 hours a week.

Britain 1986, An Official Handbook, HMSO, £12.95.



Working wives' 35% boost to spending

By Colin Hughes

Homes with married women at work are 35 per cent better off than the average household, according to figures published yesterday in the annual Family Expenditure Survey.

The report, covering household spending in 1984, shows that the average spending each week where married women are working was £209 a week. The average for British households was £152, or about £58 a week less.

Childless couples with both working were on average the best-off households, with a combined income 35 per cent better than average, but those figures conceal large regional differences.

Across the country the average contributions to household income were 72 per cent from the head, 17 per cent from the wife, and 12 per cent from other members.

Working women in the South-east earn more than those in other regions. In greater London average weekly spending was £162 and in the rest of the South-east £174.

Northern Ireland emerges bottom in almost every aspect of income and spending. A quarter of Northern Irish families' income is from social security benefits, against 14 per cent for the country as a whole. Income from other sources such as self-employment and invest-

ments contributes towards 24 per cent of home budgets in East Anglia and the South-west.

Increases in the number of homes with telephones and central heating clearly indicate improved living standards. In the North and in Scotland fewer than half of homes have the use of a car or van, while the figures for southern England are around three in four.

Households in the lowest fifth of income groups spent proportionately more on housing, fuel and food (56 per cent), where the homes with incomes in the top 20 per cent spent more on household goods, cars and transport, and other services; only 37 per cent of their higher incomes went on basics.

The Family Expenditure Survey 1984: (Stationery Office, £15 incl.)

WEEKLY HOUSEHOLD SPENDING	
Gross income	197.37
Average spending	151.92
Housing (gross)	27.41
Food	6.42
Fuel, light, power	91.49
Alcohol	7.25
Tobacco	4.37
Clothes	11.10
Durables	11.57
Other goods	11.89
Transport	22.77
Services	17.41
Misc	0.84

Guard dies under wheels of train

A train guard was killed under the wheels of his train yesterday after chasing a gang of youths who are believed to have pulled the emergency communication cord.

The accident occurred at Wolverton, Buckinghamshire, when the driver, unaware that the guard had fallen off the platform, pulled out of the station and ran over him.

The death was not reported

until the 12.15am Birmingham to Euston passenger train reached Hemel Hempstead, the next station four miles down the line, and the guard was found to be missing.

He was Ferdinand Thaxter, aged 62, married, of Leathall Road, Hackney, east London.

A police spokesman said the train was approaching Wolverton, where it was not due to stop, when someone is thought

to have pulled the communication cord, almost bringing it to a halt at Wolverton station.

It is understood that Mr Thaxter saw some people running away and gave chase but lost them. The train then started to pull out and he is believed to have lost his footing and fallen between the platform and the train.

British Rail is to hold an inquiry.

Four test-tube babies delivered on New Year's Day



Aime Turvey and Luke; Maha Ameen and Esam; Jackie Brown and Oliver; and Sarah Baggett with the only girl, not yet named. (Photograph: Suresh Karadia).

Farley hunts source of salmonella infection

By Thomson Prentice and Peter Davenport

Scientists investigating the salmonella infection at the Farley factory are urgently trying to establish how the organism was brought into the premises.

Traces of a rare strain of the bacterium, *salmonella ealing*, were found in dust samples taken from the cleaning system of the factory at Kendal, Cumbria, on Tuesday.

Tests on Farley milk products and on employees for signs of the infection have so far proved negative.

The factory has been shut since December 20 and all stocks of the company's popular Ostermilk, Osterised and Complan products have been

withdrawn from sale throughout Britain.

A total of 43 cases of diarrhoea due to salmonella ealing infection have been confirmed since November, 31 of them in babies under the age of one. A baby in Manchester has died.

The salmonella traces were found in the hopper of the factory's central vacuum cleaning system. The unit is being stripped down and examined by the company's quality control team, which isolated the infected sample.

Mr Michael Tait, the factory manager, said: "Our own staff found it, which shows the soundness of our testing efforts,

but we do not yet know how it got there. We are taking all action necessary to find the source, but it may just be a freak incident. If it is and we cannot find out how it got in all we can do is to check everything through and get every item cleaned in order to do all we can to prevent a recurrence."

He said it was the first such incident in the company's history. "We will not resume production until we are confident that the products are up to the high standard we have set ourselves and for which we have had a reputation for 80 years. But we hope to start production again in a couple of weeks."

All 320 staff at the factory, which produces 5,000 tonnes of baby food annually, are being asked to submit a second sample for analysis by Public Health Laboratory service scientists in Preston. The first samples failed to disclose any traces of the infection.

Salmonella ealing is a rare strain that was named after an outbreak of food poisoning in Ealing, west London, about 20 years ago. Only seven cases were reported in children aged under one in 1984.

The Ealing strain is rarely fatal, even in babies, who are more at risk because the infection causes diarrhoea, which can lead to a too rapid loss of fluid.

The suspension of production is a blow to Farley, which is owned by Glaxo, at a time when discussions are taking place with Boots with a view to a possible £40 million takeover of the baby food manufacturer.

A spokesman for Farley said yesterday that as far as they were concerned the discussions were still on. A Boots spokesman said they were waiting for Farley to get back in touch once they had "worked out their current problem".

The effect of the outbreak on Farley, whose baby food products account for about 25 per cent of the market, worth about £55 million a year, is sure to figure in any takeover negotiations.



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Winnie Mandela rests and lies low while planning next move

From Michael Horasby, Johannesburg

The matriarch of South African black nationalism, Mrs Winnie Mandela, was said yesterday by her lawyers to be lying low "in a safe place" while she considers her next move in her bizarre tussle of wills with the security police.

A member of the legal firm representing her, Mr Prakash Dier, said that Mrs Mandela had not decided whether to defy again a government order banning her from living in her home in Soweto, the sprawling African township outside Johannesburg.

"We are making arrangements for her to be medically examined," Mr Dier said. "There is nothing seriously wrong with her, but she is exhausted and drained and needs a bit of a rest. Her views on her right to be in Soweto have not changed."

On her return last Monday from a visit to Cape Town, Mrs Mandela, in an episode that at times had elements of a keystone Cops farce, was arrested by the police when they intercepted her car as it crossed the Johannesburg district boundary on its way to Soweto.

After spending a night in a police cell in Krugersdorp, about 30 miles north-west of Johannesburg, she appeared in the magistrate's court there on Tuesday and was released on bail of Rands 500 (£135) on

condition that she obey the government order.

If she does not do so, she will risk not only re-arrest but contempt of court charges. Her lawyers seem to be trying to rein her in, at least until January 7 when the Rand Supreme court is due to hear an appeal against the legal validity of the restrictions imposed on her.

The strange drama began on the weekend before Christmas after Mr Louis La Grange, the Minister of Law and Order, had issued an edict prohibiting Mrs Mandela from being in the magisterial districts of Johannesburg and Roodepoort, which include Soweto.

This decree replaced an earlier one banishing Mrs Mandela, who is the wife of Mr Nelson Mandela, the jailed leader of the outlawed African National Congress (ANC), to a remote rural town in the Orange Free State. It was apparently intended as a concession but was not accepted as such by Mrs Mandela.

The security police twice dragged Mrs Mandela forcibly from her Soweto home. The first time she was dumped at an airport hotel outside Johannesburg. She made her way back to Soweto, was arrested again the next day, and held for a night in a police cell in Krugersdorp.

On December 23, Mrs Mandela appeared in the Johannesburg

magistrate's court and was released on a warning to appear in the Krugersdorp magistrate's court on January 22 to face charges still being formulated by the state.

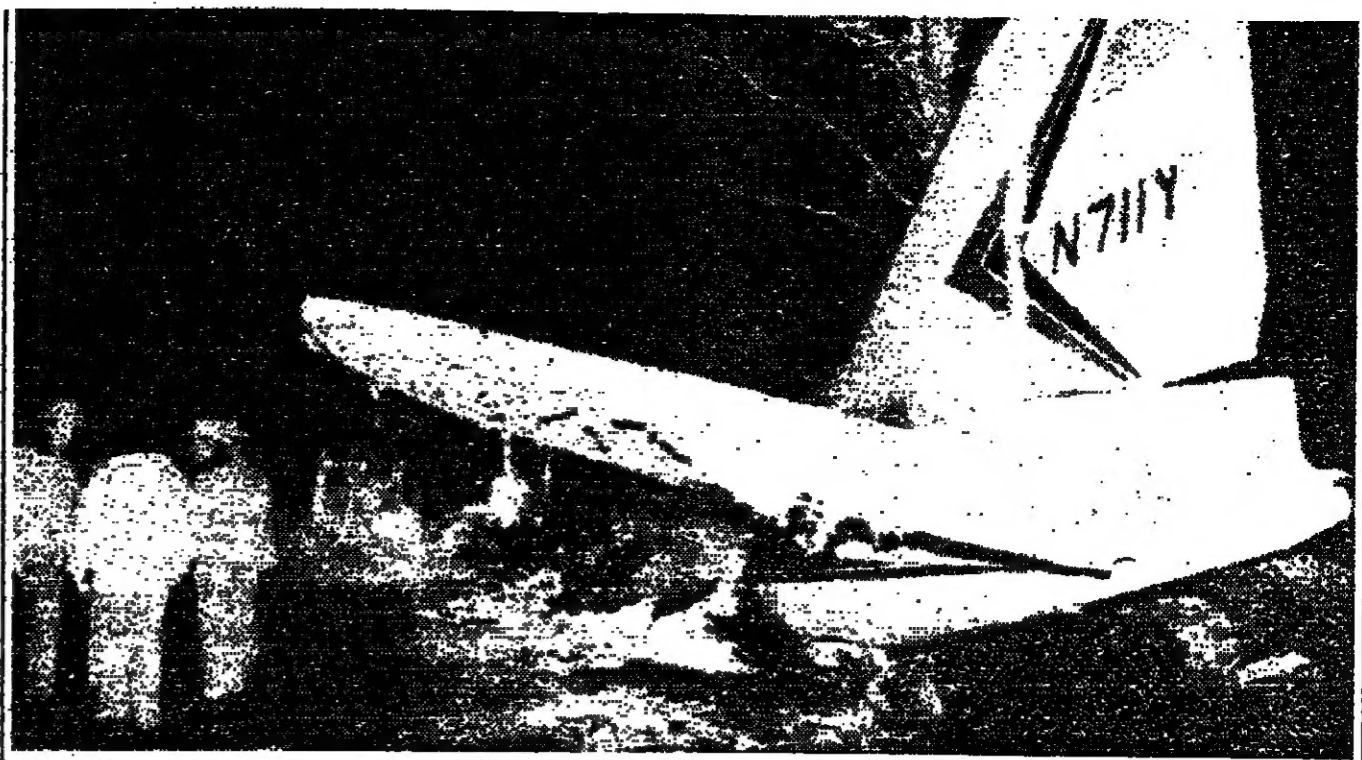
She then flew to Cape Town, where she visited her husband a number of times over Christmas in the hospital section of Pollsmoor prison.

Mr Mandela had his prostate gland removed in early November.

Meanwhile, Mr La Grange, in an extraordinary Government Gazette published in Pretoria on Tuesday, has announced a six-month ban on all indoor meetings by any one of 70 named organizations in 34 magisterial districts across the country.

Outdoor meetings have been effectively banned throughout the country for some time, and political activity by extra-parliamentary opposition groups inside the 30 districts where a state of emergency is in force is already severely curtailed.

The new ban, however, affects 11 districts where the emergency has never been declared, and nine where it was in force but has been lifted. They are all in the Eastern Cape or the Orange Free State. The ban also covers 10 districts in the Eastern Cape and the Johannesburg region, already covered by the emergency.



Botha sets terms for reforms

From Our Own Correspondent, Johannesburg

In a New Year's Eve message, the South African President, Mr P. W. Botha, promised to press ahead in 1986 with "our internal negotiation process as reports came in of more deaths and violence in continuing unrest which has taken more than 1,000 lives over the last 16 months."

Three black men were reported by the police to have been shot dead in various parts of Cape Province during Tuesday night and the early hours

of the first day of the new year, which promises to be as turbulent as its predecessor.

In Bontebouw in the Western Cape, the police said they killed a man when they fired on a crowd that had attacked their patrol. In townships in the northern and eastern Cape, government officials shot dead two men after mobs allegedly attacked their homes.

Mr Botha said that in 1985 South Africa had had to "resist unprecedented interference in our domestic affairs". Terrorist forces "operating and controlled from outside" had tried

to overwhelm the country.

Significant reforms had been achieved over a number of years, Mr Botha maintained, "but the world at large still demands more of us, and virtually overnight, without contemplating the disastrous results for our country."

The door was open to negotiations which could lead to a political solution satisfactory to all, but, Mr Botha declared, the Government would not shirk its duty to uphold "Christian values and civilized norms", a phrase that is often code language for "white political control".

The wreckage of the DC3 plane in which the singer Rick Nelson, his fiancée and five members of his band died in a crash on Tuesday, lying in a field near Dekalb, Texas. The pilot had been attempting an emergency landing because of a fire on board which had filled the cockpit with smoke. The pilot and co-pilot survived the crash but were in a critical condition in hospital yesterday. Mr Nelson, aged 45, was on his way to Dallas to perform with his group, The Stone Canyon Band.

Obituary, page 14

Duvalier picks a fresh team

Port-au-Prince (AP) - President Duvalier has disbanded his inner cabinet and replaced Haiti's police chief after a month of unrest following the deaths by shooting of four children in a protest against the regime.

Appointments include: Foreign Affairs, George Salomon; Interior and Defence, Pierre Merceron; Justice, Jean Vandal; Industry and Commerce, Raymond Thomas; national police chief, Colonel Gregoire Figaro.

More mouths

New York (AFP) - The world population grew by 79 million people to 4.842 billion in the year to mid-1985, according to UN statistics.

Police chief shot

Guatemala City (AP) - Gunmen in a small lorry ambushed and killed Guatemala's secret police chief, Colonel Ignacio González Palacios, as he drove with his wife, Juvenita. She was unhurt.

Live Aid off

Peking (Reuters) - Chinese television cancelled at the last moment a broadcast of the Live Aid concert "for technical reasons".

Dinner break

Brussels (Reuters) - Fourteen prisoners including a murderer escaped from jail in Arlon, south-east Belgium, by taking wardens hostage after a New Year's Eve dinner.

Swazi coronation to end royal intrigue

From Our Own Correspondent, Johannesburg

Political stability seems to be returning to the small African kingdom of Swaziland after more than three years of almost continuous intrigue, coups and counter-coups as members of the royal family waged a Byzantine struggle for power in the vacuum left by the death in 1982 of the venerable King Sobhuza II.

A date - April 25 - has now been set for the coronation of Crown Prince Makhosetive. There is no rule of primogeniture in Swaziland, where the aristocracy is polygamous, and the Prince was chosen by a secret tribal council from among the late monarch's many sons.

The young king-to-be, who has only recently returned from boarding school in England, is thought to be aged about 17 or 18. He has had little public exposure so far and few of his subjects have even heard the sound of his voice.

There is evidence that the pre-coronation rituals have been considerably speeded up to allow Prince Makhosetive to ascend the throne in April. Normally, the Crown Prince has to wait until he is 21. As his exact birthdate has never been made public, however, this is a detail that can probably be fudged.

One of the reasons for speed is the desire to legitimize the position of Prince Makhosetive's mother, Queen Ntombi, who, in the intriguing after King Sobhuza's death, was installed as Queen-Regent in the place of Queen Dzelive, the late monarch's own choice as regent. This violated Swazi tradition,

according to which the mother of the future king cannot become queen before her son is crowned.

A turning-point in the struggle for power was the dismissal last October of the Supreme Council of State, of Prince Mfanasibili Dlamini, a relative of the late king, and Dr George Msibi, an influential commoner, who had manoeuvred their way to positions of despotic power and thwarted all previous attempts to dislodge them.

On New Year's Eve, five prominent Swazis, who had fallen foul of the two men and had been in prison without trial for many months, were pardoned by the Queen Regent. They are Dr Sishayi Nxumalo, a former finance minister, Mr Tlusa Mabili, a former commissioner of police, and Mr Edgar Hillary, his former deputy. Mr Mangomeni Ndzimandze, a former army chief, and another army officer, Major Abednigo Dlamini.

Dr Nxumalo, who is regarded as one of the ablest Swazi politicians, was dismissed from his ministerial post in June 1984, shortly after he had revealed details of a customs duty fraud in which he alleged that middle-class Swazis, including by implication Prince Mfanasibili, were involved. It remains to be seen whether the notice King will be able to bring peace to the warring factions. Ruling a kingdom almost totally surrounded by, and economically dependent on, South Africa, he will also have a difficult path to tread in foreign policy.

Grain harvest falls

Peking pulls back on agriculture reform

Peking (NYT) - Faced with one of the sharpest drops in the size of the grain harvest in 36 years of Communist rule, China's leaders have decided to adopt a more cautious policy next year that will defer further relaxation of controls on peasant producers and seek to put grain yields back on a rising path.

The pull-back from the ambitious pace of change that had been set in recent years was announced in Peking at a special conference on the situation in rural areas. Details were made public on Monday in a report by the New China News Agency, which also revealed a figure for the 1985 harvest of "close" to 380 million tons, 27 million tons below the record figure for 1984 but considerably better than the government estimate of about 354 million tons made two weeks ago.

China remains the world's largest grain producer with a crop nearly twice that expected this year in the Soviet Union and import requirements that are substantially lower. Grain stocks from 1984 are at record levels, and officials have said that a second poor yield next year would cause no immediate hardship.

However the political implications of the decrease are considerable, particularly when considered with other retreats in recent months on the "formalised leadership" of Mr Deng Xiaoping.

The importance of the issue as reflected in the national scope of the agricultural conference in Peking. Among the speakers were several leading figures involved in the policy changes. Extracts from speeches suggested that the meeting was

held to stem an erosion in morale resulting from the grain slump and to make clear that there would be no retreat from the general lines of the rural policy under Mr Deng.

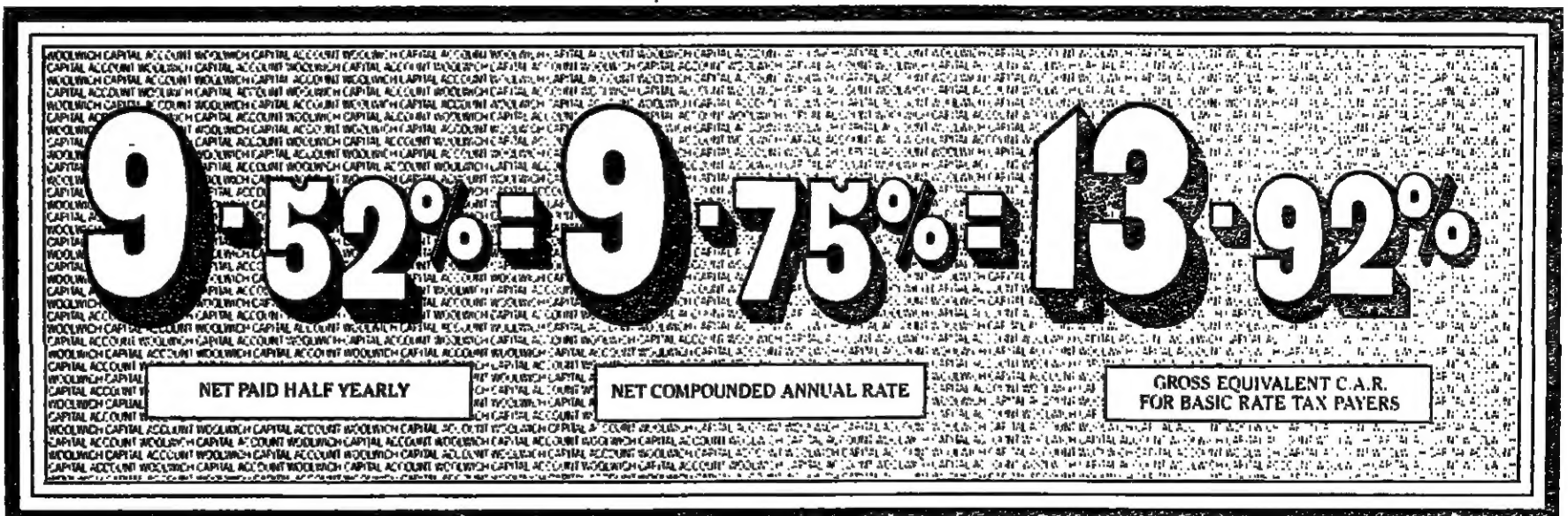
In much the same way, the Prime Minister, Mr Zhao Ziyang, had to call an emergency conference last February to defend and cut back a package of liberalizing urban measures that had been hit by a wave of irresponsible bank-borrowing and corruption only months after they were announced.

In other cautionary moves recently, Mr Deng and his associates pulled back on some cultural freedoms that had been a feature of their stewardship, admonishing writers who had begun to develop a more personal and critical style of literature to stick to "socially uplifting" themes that serve the policies of the Communist Party.

Several avant-garde plays have been shut recently and on Sunday, in a move affecting tens of millions of readers, publishing houses were ordered to stop printing the martial arts novels that have become a national vogue.

Because China is still overwhelmingly a peasant country - more than 800 million of the country's billion people live in the countryside - and because it was among the peasants that Mr Deng gained the momentum to turn China that he inherited upside down, the agricultural setbacks are potentially the most disruptive development. But the tone adopted by Mr Zhao and officials at the rural conference suggested that they are confident of being able to resolve the problems.

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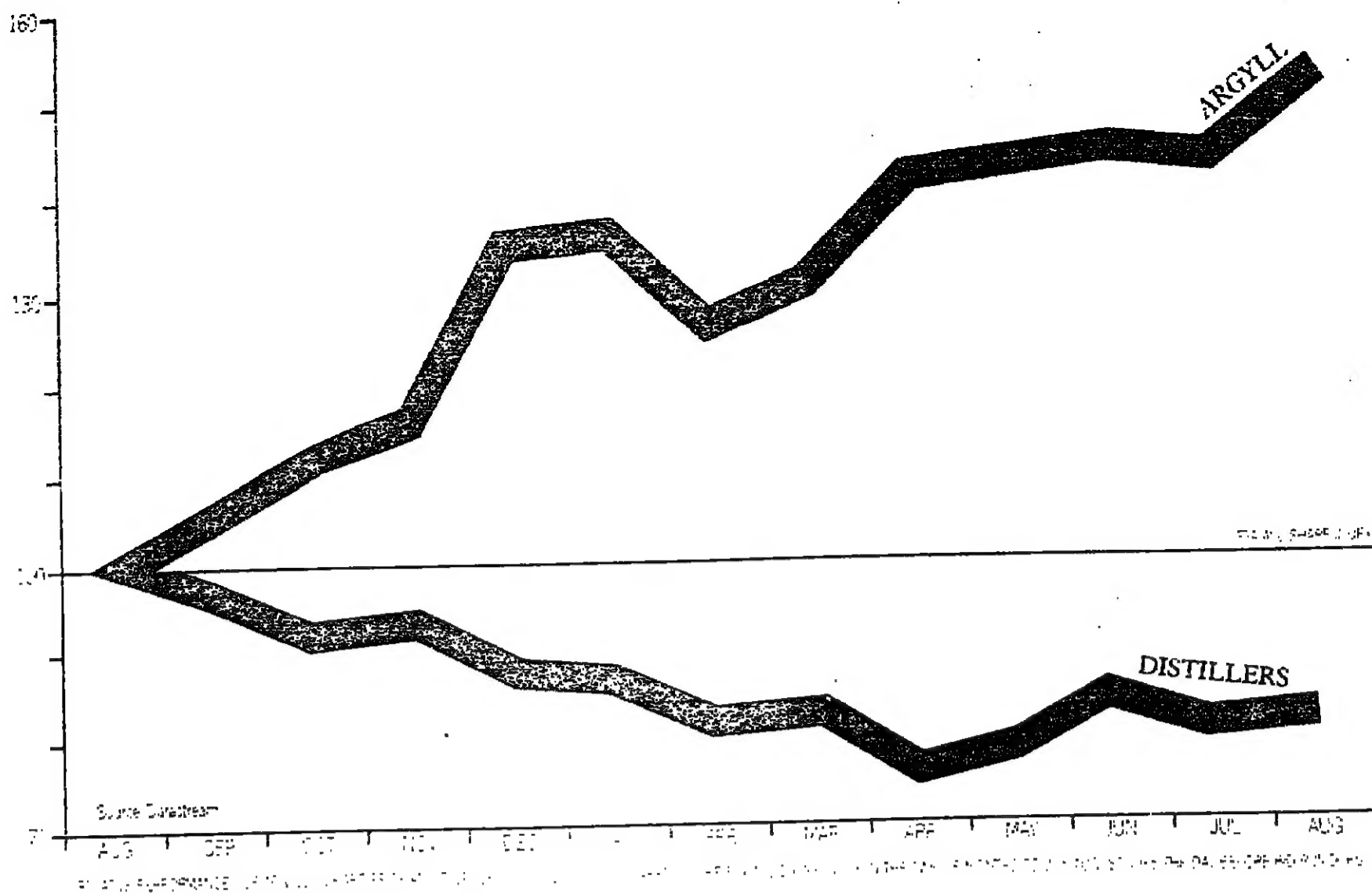
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Pakistan Cabinet resigns in wake of martial law repeal

From Hasan Akhtar Islamabad

Federal Cabinet members in Pakistan have offered their resignations to Mr Mohammad Khan Junejo, the Prime Minister, to enable him to reconstitute his government after the ending of martial law on Monday. The Sind cabinet has similarly resigned although ministers in both cabinets continue as caretaker governments.

The resignations were ostensibly to respond to the changed environment which allows political activity and the reorganisation of parties under an amended Political Parties Act. Mr Junejo, who has been a senior member of the Pagara faction of the Pakistan Muslim League, and is considered a political weakling, is known to be keen to install and lead a Muslim League Government.

It is predicted however that political activity will take time to pick up after eight-and-a-half years of martial law. The formation of administrations may not be altogether trouble-free.

Meanwhile, there has been a strong reaction to the appointment of a former general from Punjab as Governor of Sind. All the other provinces have governors from the region. A Karachi-based correspondent of

Sri Lanka restores rights of ex-premier

From Vijitha Yapa Colombo

The former Prime Minister of Sri Lanka, Mrs Sirima Bandaranaike, was given a free pardon and had her civic rights restored by President Jayewardene yesterday.

Mrs Bandaranaike, who had been Prime Minister for two terms in the early 1960s and 1970s, was deprived of her civic rights for seven years by Parliament on October 16, 1978. She was also expelled from Parliament.

The vote was taken after a presidential commission which inquired into her conduct during her term of office in the 1970s found her guilty of abuse of power. Loss of civic rights meant Mrs Bandaranaike was not able to contest the presidential elections in 1982 nor participate on election platforms on behalf of candidates from her Sri Lanka Freedom Party.

It is believed the decision by President Jayewardene may be part of a plan to get a consensus with the Freedom Party on an approach to a proposed fresh dialogue with Tamil parties to find a solution to the island's ethnic crisis.

● Election call: Hours after her pardon was announced Mrs Bandaranaike called for a general election (Reuters reports). She said: "The biggest problem facing the country today is the ethnic issue. Have a general election and let the people decide."

She said: "The biggest problem facing the country today is the ethnic issue. Have a general election and let the people decide."



Mrs Imelda Marcos wife of the Philippines president, visiting the Santa Cruz district of Manila yesterday where she ordered road and drainage system repairs.

Manila expels Chinese dancer in spy tangle

Manila (AP) - The Philippines has expelled a Chinese ballet dancer who was questioned by American officials as a possible Chinese spy involved in a love affair with a US Embassy worker, a Philippine official source said yesterday.

US Embassy officials refused to comment. Lee Hongying, aged 23, was deported to China on Tuesday after the Chinese authorities agreed to admit the woman, who had attempted suicide three times while in custody in the Philippines, said the official.

According to information gathered by local immigration officials, Ms Lee arrived in the Philippines in 1983 and had an affair with a US Embassy worker, a Philippine official source said yesterday.

The source said Philippine officials had no information about her alleged spying activities, but that US officials suspected "the Chinese had let her loose," meaning she had been sent out to gather information.

Son Sann's removal as Khmer chief reported

From Neil Kelly Bangkok

Serious internal quarrels which threaten the existence of the biggest non-communist faction in the Cambodian resistance appear to have led to the overthrow of Mr Son Sann, aged 74, leader of the Khmer Peoples National Liberation Front (KNPLF) by a group led by his military commander, General Sak Sitsakhan.

Mr Son Sann is also Prime Minister in the coalition government fighting Vietnamese occupation forces, a post he could scarcely continue to hold if he is deposed as liberation leader.

General Sak claims he has temporarily taken over the leadership but is seeking a new President among the group's elder statesmen.

Mr Son Sann, a former Prime Minister of Cambodia, who is in Bangkok, cannot visit 140,000 KNPLF civilians in camps near the border because his opponents say he is not welcome there and consequently there are fears for his safety.

The Thai army have told him it would not be appropriate for him to go to the area while his opponents say his exclusion from the border camps shows who is in control. Mr Son Sann has appealed to General Sak and his chief of staff, General Dien Del, to return to the fold.

Apart from his immediate aides, nobody in the liberation front has spoken out for Mr Son Sann. Civilian administrators in charge of the refugee camps as well as the military leader appear to favour his departure.

Differences in the KNPLF leadership reached breaking point four months ago when Mr Son Sann dismissed from the ruling executive committee Dr Abdul Gaffar and Mr Hing Kunthun. The reasons have not officially been disclosed but well-informed sources say Mr Son Sann was dissatisfied with the way the two men had handled financial aid from foreign countries.

Auckland arms haul

Australia 'base for weapon smuggling'

From Stephen Taylor, Sydney

The discovery of an arms cache in New Zealand has started an investigation by Australian police amid heightened concern that the country has become a main source of contraband weaponry in the region.

Thousands of rounds of ammunition and magazines found on the French freighter Ile de Lumiere in Auckland harbour on Monday were described by Mr Geoffrey Palmer, the New Zealand Deputy Prime Minister, as "a shopping list" filled in Australia on orders taken in New Caledonia.

It was the third discovery in the past few months of arms despatched from Australia to New Caledonia, where right-wing French settlers are engaged in a sporadic armed conflict with Kanak nationalists seeking independence.

Customs ineffectiveness and loose gun control make Australia a logical base for arms smuggling, police say. In some states it is possible to buy ammunition without a weapons licence or even proof of identity.

Four Frenchmen have been convicted since November in trials in Australia of attempting to smuggle guns and ammunition to New Caledonia.

The inadequacy of Australian customs procedures has been implicitly confirmed by a United Nations watchdog group, the International Narcotics Control Board, which

says in its annual report that traffickers are focusing more and more on the country as a market and as a conduit for heroin from South East Asia to Europe and the United States.

A senior official for the customs officers' union commented that anti-smuggling operations in Australia had become so ineffective that the Government might as well issue an open invitation to drug and arms dealers to set up shop here.

Mr Bob Spanswick, federal secretary of the union, said that the customs service often did not have the staff to carry out even routine checks, such as that which led to the arms being detected in New Zealand.

● WELLINGTON: New Zealand customs officers are expected to target New Caledonia-bound vessels for closer inspection after the seizure of the ammunition and magazines (Richard Long writes).

Mr Palmer said yesterday that New Zealand could learn a lesson from the incident and from similar events in Australia. "We do not want to be used as a base for gun-running any more than the Australians do," he said.

While the owners of the French freighter have argued that the ammunition could be purchased legally in Australia, Mr Palmer replied that the cache, hidden in the ship's engine room, was not mentioned on the manifest.

MPs face drug charges

Port Louis, Mauritius (Reuters) - Four Mauritians arrested after £700,000 worth of heroin was allegedly found in their luggage at Amsterdam airport are members of Parliament, the Mauritius Prime Minister, Mr Anerood Jugnauth, said yesterday.

Mr Jugnauth named them as Mr Serge Thomas, Mr Kim Curran, Mr Sateenand Pelladoah and Mr Ismael Nawoor. They appeared in court in Harlem on Tuesday and were remanded in custody. Dutch police alleged that about 44 pounds of heroin was found in their suitcases on their arrival at Schiphol airport from Bombay last Friday.

New party launched for Ershad

From Ahmed Fazl Dhaka

The military Government of Bangladesh yesterday launched a new political party to fight the opposition alliances in general elections promised by April.

A formal announcement of the Jatiyo [National] Party was made by the Public Works Minister, Dr M. A. Matin, who has been appointed secretary-general of the party.

The party includes all the Cabinet ministers in the 18-member presidium. Its launching coincided with the lifting of a 10-month ban on open politics and union activities.

Dr Matin said it would be run under the leadership of President Ershad, but that the general would not hold any party office at the moment.

A 57-member National Executive Committee was also formed, but the position of chairman was kept vacant, presumably for General Ershad when he decides to be a civilian president.

General Ershad, who seized power in March 1982, has yet to name dates for parliamentary and presidential polls and the lifting of martial law.

The new party is made up of five parties, including the pro-Ershad Janadala.

Meanwhile, hundreds of thousands of people turned out in Dhaka yesterday for rallies organized by the opposition alliances to demand the lifting of martial law.

Sheikh Hasina Wazed, chief of a 15-party alliance, called for a half-day general strike in the capital on Sunday to protest against military rule and to support the continuing industrial action by about 250,000 jute mill workers, engineers, doctors and agricultural officers.

Duarte may be replaced

Growing threat to Salvador regime

From John Carlin, San Salvador

Talk is in the air, among powerful political and military groups in El Salvador, of the possible replacement of President Jose Napoleon Duarte.

The President himself seems to share a sense of the brittleness of his position. "Democracy has been continually at risk this year," he said last month. "The position of head of state was permanently in the balance, with a sword of Damocles over his head."

If 1985 was unstable, the prospects for El Salvador this year appear still more uncertain.

Private conversations with senior officers, make it clear that the military are restless, feeling they have demonstrated exceptional restraint so far. The Duarte Government, it can be said with certainty, is perceived in military circles to be weak, corrupt and inept.

President Duarte announced last Friday that the extreme right were trying to provoke the Army into a coup. So far this has been ignored but diplomats feel it could gain in appeal unless the Government takes steps in the next six months to restore its tattered credibility.

As one officer said: "Imagine how a military commander feels when he comes home to the city after a dangerous 25-day operation against the guerrillas and discovers that the Duarte government - which he never much trusted anyway - is not just mishandling the economy, and therefore helping the guerrillas, but actually pocketing public money."

Few doubt the honesty of

President Duarte himself. But there is a view widely held - even among his own party members - that cynics close to the President are cashing in on the weakness long described both by critics and friends as a "naive tendency to self-delusion".

Senior Duarte came to power 18 months ago, believing he alone had the recipe for a negotiated peace in Salvador. Today, as the head of the army chief of staff recently noted, "dialogue is impossible". The end of the six-year civil war whether by political or military means, remains a distant dream.

This "unsatisfied expectation", as one union leader put it, has cost the President dearly. The right-wing core of the private sector - adamant in their extraordinary conviction that Señor Duarte is "a communist" - have been exasperated by what one prominent businessman described as a "general sense of helplessness and disintegration".

The military have proposed the forming of a "crisis" or "war Cabinet" to try to inject some urgency and direction into the running of the country.

Unemployment stands at 40 per cent, and economic measures due to be introduced are expected, even by the Government, to boost inflation dramatically.

According to well-placed insiders, the signs of strain are showing on the President. More emotional than practical in his response to problems, according to one aide, Señor Duarte is said to be quick these days to fly into a rage.

12 shot dead in Thai jail escape attempt

From Neil Kelly Bangkok

Police and soldiers yesterday shot dead 12 prisoners armed with grenades as they attempted to escape from a jail in north-east Thailand behind a screen of six hostages, according to a police spokesman at Sakon.

The six hostages, including a woman, were wounded by gunfire and by grenade shrapnel as the prisoners forced their way through the prison gates, hurling grenades.

The prisoners, all serving life sentences, had been holding the hostages, who included the prison governor, for 24 hours. Another prisoner was shot dead when the prisoners, demanding escape cars and weapons, seized the hostages on Tuesday.

It was the third prison revolt in five months in which hostages had been seized by prisoners serving very long sentences or under sentence of death.

Thai lawyers blame overcrowding in prisons and the amnesty system for the unrest.

Ethiopia food-producing areas hit by drought

By Paul Valley

The famine in Ethiopia is spreading from the denuded highlands in the north to the food-producing areas in the south and east.

As a result, though the continuing food emergency will affect fewer people in 1986 than it did last year, it may prove more difficult to combat, according to reports from relief workers.

Mr Fred Cuny, the chairman of the disaster assessment consultancy Interact said: "Historically, drought and famine in Ethiopia move from the north to the south and east. That is what we are seeing here. The drought is moving into the traditional food-producing areas."

Mr Cuny, who is now working in the Hararge area of Ethiopia, played a significant part in the success of the organization of the camp in the eastern Sudan which took in hundreds of thousands of Ethiopian refugees last year.

The highlands of Hararge are usually prime cereal lands, producing sorghum and corn. The lowlands provide good

grazing land and last year did not suffer badly in the drought.

But in recent weeks aid workers have been reporting growing numbers of both highland and lowland tenants entering food distribution centres in the region. There are crops in the fields, according to the relief agency, but the lack of rain means they do not produce seed.

The government Relief and Rehabilitation Commission estimates that 1.2 million people in Hararge are now affected and that agricultural production in the area will be 45 per cent lower than usual. Its figures for the total Ethiopian population in need of aid this year is 5.8 million. They will need 1,158,000 tons of grain this year, only slightly less than they did in 1985.

Mr Maurice Strong, head of UN's Office for Emergency Operations in Africa, says that the 20 countries worst affected by the drought will need \$1.03 billion worth of aid this year compared with almost \$3 billion last year.

Iran to move trade away from raids

Nicosia (AP) - Iran announced yesterday that it was preparing to open three new jetties at ports on its southern coast, apparently to keep cargo as far as possible from the reach of Iraqi jets.

The official Islamic Republic News Agency (Irna), monitored in Nicosia, said that a new jetty at Jask would be operational next month to coincide with the

seventh anniversary of the establishment of the Islamic Republic in Iran after the overthrow of the Shah in 1979.

Two other jetties, one at Qasim and another at Lengeh, would be operational in March, Irna added.

The report referred to the new jetties in the context of trade in goods, but made no mention of their possible use for oil export.

Iran also is said to be developing oil export terminals at Ganaven, which is about 25 miles north-east of Kharg, and another about halfway down the Gulf.

Iran and Iraq have been at war since September 1980, and Iraqi jets since mid-August have been conducting almost daily raids on Kharg Island and periodic raids on oil and merchant ships in the Gulf.

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Your old style card is now invalid and won't be acceptable anywhere (if your new card has not been received call your bank immediately).

Thanks to the high security signature strip and to a complex hologram the new card's a lot harder to tamper with.

However, it's still a temptation to the criminal fraternity.

Therefore the following are well worth adding to your list of New Year's resolutions:

1. Your new card is an advanced piece of technology, so look after it carefully.
2. Whenever you receive a

new card, sign it immediately with a ballpoint pen.

3. Then destroy your old card by cutting it in half.

4. Wherever possible keep your cheque card and cheque book in separate places.

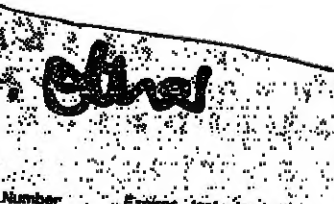
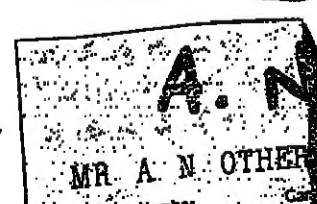
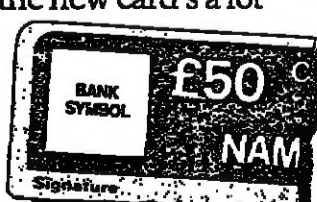
5. Never leave them unattended (in your car or in a changing room for example).

6. Never leave them exposed (on top of a shopping bag, say).

7. If you lose them tell your bank immediately.

Card theft is big business, and it's a business we'd all like to see the back of.

So take care of your card, and enjoy an even happier New Year.



DON'T LET YOUR CHEQUE CARD BECOME A THIEF'S PAY CHEQUE.

Sponsored by the Bank Cheque Card Committee.

BANKS ISSUING THE NEW CARD: ALLIED IRISH BANKS PLC, BANK OF ENGLAND, BANK OF IRELAND, CLYDESDALE BANK PLC, CO-OPERATIVE BANK PLC, GUTHRIE & CO., C. HOARE & CO., NILE OF MAN BANK LIMITED, LLOYDS BANK PLC, MIDL AND BANK PLC, THE NATIONAL BANK OF NEW ZEALAND LIMITED, GIBORANK PLC, NATIONAL WESTMINSTER BANK PLC, NORWICH BANK LIMITED, THE ROYAL BANK OF SCOTLAND PLC, STANDARD CHARTERED BANK PLC, TRUSTEE SAVINGS BANKS, ULSTER BANK LIMITED, YORKSHIRE BANK PLC.

Afghanistan presents timetable for Soviet troop withdrawal

Washington, (NYT) - The Afghan Government has informally presented a timetable for the withdrawal of all Soviet troops from Afghanistan within a one-year period as part of an overall accord, a senior State Department official said on Tuesday.

He said the schedule for the withdrawal of the 120,000 Soviet soldiers was shown to the United Nations Under-Secretary General for Political Affairs, Senor Diego Cordovez of Ecuador, during the United Nations-sponsored talks on a political settlement in Afghanistan held in Geneva last month.

An agreement on a timetable for the pullout of Soviet troops has been the major stumbling block in the negotiations, the official said.

In earlier rounds of talks, progress has been made in resolving issues such as the future of the existing Soviet-backed Government, the return of Afghan refugees from Pakistan, new elections, and guarantees of non-interference in Afghanistan, the official said.

He said that while the

informal presentation of a withdrawal timetable has a positive development, there would be no accord until all the elements of the package were agreed to.

The troop withdrawal plan was not officially presented by the Afghan Foreign Minister, Shah Mohammed Dost, because the Pakistani foreign minister, Sahabzada Yaqub Khan, refused to negotiate directly with him until he produced a guarantee that the Soviet Government would vouch for the timetable, the official said.

The next round of Geneva talks on Afghanistan is scheduled for next month, and the Administration official said: "There is reason to be optimistic even though the last meeting adjourned without results."

Afghanistan was discussed extensively at the summit meeting in Geneva in November between President Reagan and Mr Gorbachov, Mr Reagan was said to have come away from the meeting believing that Mr Gorbachov was interested in a political solution to the Afghan problem.

A crucial demand of the United States has been that the Soviet Union produce a timetable for the withdrawal of its troops. Until the latest session, the Geneva talks had dealt with other subjects, such as new elections in Afghanistan.

In addition to the informal presentation of a withdrawal plan, there were other grounds for optimism, the senior official said. In a recent speech to foreign diplomats in Moscow, Mr Gorbachov also seemed to be suggesting a willingness to consider a deal.

The official said: "While we have every right to be sceptical - to take an 'I'll believe it when I see it' attitude - I know that Afghanistan is so costly to the Soviets, in terms of dollars and prestige that it seems logical to me that they might well be seeking an exit."

Whether Moscow would be willing to negotiate a troop withdrawal before the next summit meeting with President Reagan is not clear, but any progress would be noted at that session, Mr Gorbachov has agreed to visit the United States this year.

New Year's party ends in massacre

Paris (AFP) - Fouad Bouahouane, aged 32, burst into a New Year's party at his estranged wife's home, shot dead his parents-in-law, then drove home and killed his three children before committing suicide.

His wife, Helene, aged 27, escaped unhurt. Her sister Marie-Rose, 25, who was shot in the stomach, is in a critical condition.

Book returned 85 years late

Harrisburg, Pennsylvania (AP) - *Townsend's Collection*, a battered 328-year-old leather-bound volume of British laws which disappeared between 1823 and 1900, has been returned secretly to the Pennsylvania State Library.

Mr Elliott Shuler, the State librarian, said the overdue charge would have been thousands of dollars, "but what's important is that it was returned. It is an original, and irreplaceable."

Pilgrim death

Delhi (AP) - A young man was trampled to death in a stampede when thousands of pilgrims left queues and rushed to enter the historic Hindu temple at Tirumala, in Andhra Pradesh.

Mild shock

Niles, Ohio (AFP) - Richard Bly, aged 38, a former teacher who gave shocks with a home-made electric chair to boys between 13 and 20 was sentenced to pay a token \$200 (£140) fine. Police said the boys considered it a game.

Festive tragedy

Darmstadt, West Germany (AP) - Two young West German men died when they tried to set off a home-made 2lb firework on an empty lot as part of New Year festivities.

FAO official sent to London

Assault on Falklands fish causes alarm

By Nicholas Ashford, Diplomatic Correspondent

An official from the Food and Agriculture Organization is due in London shortly for urgent talks on what has been described as one of the biggest assaults on wildlife since the massacre of the American bison.

The "assault" is taking place in the waters off the Falkland Islands, one of the last unregulated fishing regions in the world, where a growing armada of foreign fishing vessels is destroying the waters' stock of blue whiting, hake and squid.

According to some estimates the huge fishing grounds of the South Atlantic could be virtually finished within three years unless urgent action is taken.

The Falkland Islanders have urged Britain to declare an exclusive 200-mile fisheries zone around the Falklands and South Georgia. They maintain that such a move would not only conserve fish stocks within the islands but would also provide them some revenue through licence fees.

At present the islands earn virtually nothing from the £50 million worth of fish which is being taken from the South Atlantic fishing grounds each season.

Britain has resisted such an idea, however, on the ground that it would be almost impossible for the Royal Navy to police effectively at 8,000 miles range a unilateral fisheries limit that was constantly being challenged by Argentina and the nations fishing most heavily in the South Atlantic - the Soviet Union, Poland, Spain, Bulgaria, Japan and Korea.

A survey commissioned from Dr John Beddington of Imperial College London has also persuaded the Government that while the increasingly heavy fishing around the islands gives cause for concern, it is not as critical as the islanders and

some other fisheries experts make out.

Instead Britain has been pressing for the negotiation of a multilateral fisheries accord through the FAO.

Negotiations are being complicated by Britain and Argentina's rival claims to sovereignty over the Falklands and the surrounding waters.

After months of behind-the-scenes diplomacy, Britain and Argentina have both told the FAO they are prepared to "freeze" the sovereignty issue so that progress can be made on what both countries recognize to be an urgent problem.

However, because of the delicacy of the political issues at stake, the FAO is having to proceed with extreme caution. The organization's first task is to produce a technical study of the current fishing activities in the South Atlantic and assess the extent to which fish stocks are being over-exploited.

This will not be completed at least until late spring, by which time the present fishing season will be well under way. Only then will the FAO be in a position to consider what kind of multilateral approach could be adopted.

The FAO has been instrumental in the past in setting up fisheries management conventions in other parts of the world which could serve as models for the South Atlantic.

"But there are unresolved political considerations in this case," a senior FAO official said. "We hope our study will at least lead to a recognition by all of the countries involved of the need to get together to solve this problem without first resolving the political issues arising from the Falklands dispute."

But by that time another fishing season will be over and thousands of tons of whiting, hake and squid will have been scooped from the South Atlantic waters.

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The Israeli Prime Minister, Mr Shimon Peres, speaking in the Knesset yesterday when he accused Colonel Gaddafi of Libya of running a "murder-state".

Kidnapped Lebanese Jew murdered

From Our Correspondent, Beirut

The body of a Lebanese Jew who was kidnapped by a Muslim extremist group nine months ago was found yesterday in Beirut after a four-hour search.

The kidnappers are believed to be Shia Muslim fundamentalists who follow the line of the Iranian leader Ayatollah Khomeini.

The body of another Lebanese Jew, Mr Chaim Cohen Halala, aged 39, was found on Christmas Day and the Organisation of the Oppressed on Earth said he was killed in reprisal for the shelling of the south Lebanese Muslim villages of Kafra and Yater on December 22 by Israeli forces and the South Lebanon Army.

Jihad, the extremist Muslim group that claims the kidnapping of several Americans and Westerners, vowed in Beirut to continue bomb attacks, abductions and murders against "the enemies of the Arab cause" (AFP reports).

The police said they had identified the body as that of Isaac Tarrab, aged 53, who was abducted by six gunmen in the old Jewish quarter of Wadi Abu-Jamil on March 29.

His kidnappers said the killing was in retaliation for an Israeli raid on the Shia Muslim village of Kounin on Monday, in which hundreds of villagers were forced to flee by Israeli troops and their allies of the South Lebanon Army.

Beirut police said Mr Tarrab's body was found by residents of the war-devastated old commercial district, with a single bullet wound in the head. Arrangements were being made for a funeral in Christian east Beirut.

Little is known about Mr Tarrab. Police sources could not provide personal data.

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Christians in clashes

Beirut - Christian factions fought for two hours in Beirut on New Year's Eve after a confusing episode of violence erupted in the city.

The fighting erupted shortly after gunmen fired machine guns and grenades at two motorcades.

One was made of three presidential limousines, but Mr Geyam was not in any of them.

In the second was Mr Assad Shafar, a prominent negotiator for the Lebanese Forces Christian militia, who played a crucial role in drafting the Syrian-sponsored armistice signed by Druze, Shia Muslim and Christian militia leaders on Saturday.

What the leaders said

We can bridge the gap

The following is the text of Mr Gorbachov's address to the American people:

Dear Americans,

I see a good, sunny day in the New Year, which has been declared the year of peace. We are starting it with an exchange of direct messages - President Reagan's to the Soviet people, and mine to you.

This, I believe, is a hopeful sign of change which, though small, is none the less a change for the better in our relations. The few minutes that I will be speaking to you strike me as a meaningful symbol of our mutual willingness to go on moving toward each other, which is what your president and I began doing at Geneva.

For a discussion along these lines we had the mandate of our peoples. They want the constructive Soviet-American dialogue to continue uninterrupted and to yield tangible results.

As I face you today, I want to say that Soviet people are dedicated to peace - that supreme value equal to the gift of life. We cherish the idea of peace, having suffered for it. Together with the pain of unhealed wounds and the agony of irretrievable losses, it has become part and parcel of our flesh and blood.

In our country there is not a single family or a single home that has not kept alive the memory of their kind and kin who perished in the flames of war the war in which the Soviet and American peoples were allies and fought side by side.

I say this because our common quest for peace has its roots in the past, and that

GORBACHOV

means we have a historic record of co-operation which can today inspire our joint efforts for the sake of the future.

The many letters I have received from you and my conversations with your fellow countrymen - senators, congressmen, scientists, businessmen and statesmen - have convinced me that in the United States, too, people realize that our two nations should never be at war, that a collision between them would be the greatest of tragedies.

It is a reality of today's world that it is senseless to seek greater security for oneself through new types of weapons. At present every step in the arms race increases the danger and the risk for both sides, and for all humankind.

It is the forceful and compelling demand of life itself that we should follow the path of cutting back nuclear arsenals and keeping outer space peaceful. This is what we are negotiating about at Geneva, and we would very much like those talks to be successful this year.

In our efforts for peace we should be guided by an awareness of the fact that today history has willed our two nations to bear an enormous responsibility to the peoples of our two countries and, indeed, to the peoples of all countries, for preserving life on earth.

Our duty to all humankind is to offer it a safe prospect of peace, a prospect of entering the third millennium without fear. Let us commit ourselves to doing away with the threat

hanging over humanity. Let us not shift that task on to our children's shoulders.

We can hardly succeed in attaining that goal unless we begin saving up, bit by bit, the most precious capital there is - trust among nations and peoples. And it is absolutely essential to start mending the existing deficits of trust in Soviet-American relations. I believe that one of the main results of my meeting with President Reagan is that, as leaders and as human beings, we were able to take the first steps towards overcoming mistrust and to activate the factor of confidence.

The gap dividing us is still wide; to bridge it will not be easy, but we saw in Geneva that it can be done. Bridging that gap would be a great feat - a feat our people are ready to perform for the sake of world peace.

I am reminded of the title of a remarkable work of American literature, the novel *The Winter of our Discontent*. In that phrase, let me just substitute hope for discontent. And may not only this winter, but every season of this year and of the years to come, be full of hope for a better future, a hope that, together, we can turn into reality. I can assure you that we shall spare no effort in working for that.

For the Soviet people, the year 1986 marks the beginning of a new stage in carrying out our constructive plans. Those are peaceful plans. We have made them known to the whole world.

I wish you a happy New Year. To every American family, I wish good health, peace and happiness.

Nuclear war cannot be won

REAGAN

The following is the official text of President Reagan's address to the Soviet people:

Good evening. This is Ronald Reagan, President of the United States. I am pleased to speak to you on the occasion of the New Year. This is a time for reflection - and for hope. As we look back on the year just concluded, and on the year that is to come, I want to share with you my hopes for the New Year, hopes for peace and good will that the American and Soviet peoples share.

Just over a month ago, General Secretary Gorbachov and I met for the first time in Geneva. Our purpose was to begin a fresh chapter in the relations between our two countries and to try to reduce the suspicions and mistrust between us. I think we made a good beginning.

Mr Gorbachov and I spent many hours together, speaking frankly and seriously about the most important issues of our time - reducing the massive nuclear arsenals on both sides, ensuring regional conflicts, resolving regional conflicts, ensuring respect for human rights as guaranteed under international agreements, and other questions of mutual interest.

In Geneva, I told Mr Gorbachov of the American people's deep desire for peace and that the American people do not wish the Soviet people any harm.

While there were many areas where we did not agree - which was to be expected - we left Geneva with a better understanding of one another, and of the goals we each have. We are determined to build on that understanding in the coming months and years. One of the

most important things on which we agreed was the need to reduce the massive nuclear arsenals on both sides. As I have said many times, a nuclear war cannot be won, and must never be fought. Therefore, we agreed to accelerate negotiations where there is common ground, to reduce and eventually eliminate the means of nuclear destruction.

Our negotiators will soon be returning to the Geneva talks on nuclear and space arms, where Mr Gorbachov and I agreed we will seek agreements on the principle of 50 per cent reductions in offensive nuclear arms and an interim agreement on intermediate-range nuclear systems.

And it is my hope that one day we will be able to eliminate these weapons altogether, and rely increasingly for our security on defensive systems which threaten no-one. Both the US and Soviet Union are doing research on the possibilities of harnessing new technologies to the cause of defence. If these technologies become a reality, it is my dream to one day free us all from the threat of nuclear destruction.

One of the best ways to build mutual understanding is to allow the American and Soviet peoples to get to know one another better. In Geneva, we signed a new agreement to exchange our best artists, scholars, and musicians. We also agreed to expand the contacts between our peoples, so that students, teachers, and young people can get to know each other directly. If people in both countries can visit, study,

and work together, too, then we will strengthen the bonds of understanding and build a true foundation for lasting peace.

I also discussed the American people's strong interest in humanitarian issues. Our democratic system is founded on the belief in the sanctity of human life and the rights of the individual - rights such as freedom of speech, of assembly, of movement, and of worship. It is a sacred truth to us that every individual is a unique gift of God, with his or her own special talents, abilities, hopes and dreams. Respect for all people is essential to peace. And as we agreed in Geneva, progress in resolving humanitarian issues in a spirit of co-operation would go a long way to making 1986 a better year for all of us.

A safe and lasting peace also requires finding peaceful settlements to armed conflicts which cause so much human suffering in many parts of the world. I have proposed several concrete steps to help resolve such conflicts. It is my hope that in 1986 we will make progress toward this end.

I see a busy year ahead in building on the foundations laid in Geneva. There is much work to be done. Mr Gorbachov will visit the United States later this year, and I look forward to allowing him our wonderful country, and hope to meet many of you.

In the name of the American people, I wish you all a happy and healthy new year. Let's work together to make it a year of peace. There is no better goal for 1986, or for any year. Let us look forward to a future of *chistoye syelo* [clear skies] for all mankind. Thank you.

European Law Report January 2 1986

Limits of bankers' obligation of secrecy

Gemeente Hillegom v Hillegom Case 110/84

Before: Lord MacKenzie Stuart, President and Judges U. Everling, R. Bahlmann, R. Joliet, G. Bosco, T. Koopmans, O. Dux, Y. Galmot and T. F. O'Higgins

Advocate General Sir Gordon Slynn (Judgment delivered December 11)

The obligation of professional secrecy, provided for by article 12(1) of Council Directive No 77/780/EEC on the co-ordination of laws, regulations and administrative provisions relating to the taking up and pursuit of the business of credit institutions covered testimony by the persons referred to in that provision.

In July 1981 the plaintiff local authority deposited 600,000 guilders with the Amsterdam American Bank NV. On October 23, 1981 that bank was declared insolvent.

On August 2, 1982 the local authority applied for and obtained an order for the provisional examination of witnesses, a procedure available under Dutch law prior to the commencement of substantive proceedings.

In the context of that hearing the local authority asked that the defendant, Mr Hillegom, be heard as a witness. He was heard of the accountancy division of De Nederlandsche Bank, the supervisory authority for banks in the Netherlands for the purposes of the directive.

When he appeared before the court the defendant declined to answer certain questions concerning the manner in which De Nederlandsche Bank had exercised its supervision of the bankrupt bank on the ground that he was covered by the obligation of banking secrecy

imposed upon him by the Dutch law which gave effect to the directive.

The Arrondissementsrechtbank (District Court), Amsterdam, rejected the defendant's claim that he was exempted from the obligation to testify, however the Gerechtshof (Regional Court of Appeal) upheld that claim.

On appeal the Hoge Raad der Nederlanden (Supreme Court of the Netherlands) referred three questions on the interpretation of article 12 of the directive to the Court of Justice of the European Community for a preliminary ruling. In its judgment the Court of Justice held as follows:

It appeared from the preamble to the directive that its purpose was only to eliminate the most serious differences between the laws of the member states as to the rules to which credit institutions were subject and that it was necessary to proceed by stages to create the conditions required for a common market for credit institutions.

Article 7 of the directive provided that the competent authorities of the member states were to collaborate closely. They were to supply one another with all information concerning the management and ownership of such credit institutions that was likely to facilitate their supervision and the examination of the conditions for their authorization and all information likely to facilitate the monitoring of their liquidity and solvency.

It was in that context that article 12(1) required member states to ensure that the authorities receiving information could use such information only for the strictly limited purposes defined in that provision.

Article 12(1), while requiring member states to provide for the maintenance of professional secrecy, gave a definition neither of that secrecy nor of its extent.

It was left to the member States to decide those questions which providing that confidential information which was covered by professional secrecy was not to be divulged except by virtue of provisions laid down by law.

Similarly, article 12(2) provided

on the one hand that professional secrecy did not preclude the exchange of information between the competent authorities of the various member States and, on the other hand, that information thus exchanged was to be covered by the obligation of professional secrecy.

The first question sought essentially to establish whether article 12(1) also applied to depositions made as a witness by the persons concerned.

The operation of financial control based upon supervision within a member State and the exchange of information between the competent authorities required the protection of professional secrecy.

The disclosure of confidential information for whatever purpose might have undesirable consequences, not only for the credit institutions directly concerned, but also for the functioning of the banking system in general.

Consequently, the absence of such secrecy might compromise the necessary exchange of information between competent authorities because, in such a case, the competent authority of a member State could not be sure that confidential information which it gave to an authority in another member State would remain confidential.

Mr Hillegom, the Commission and the Governments of Germany, Italy, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom were therefore correct to emphasize the great importance of a requirement for persons who were or who had been employed by a competent authority to protect professional secrecy.

Thus both the terms of article 12(1) itself and the objectives of the directive demonstrated that the prohibition of the disclosure of confidential information also covered depositions made as a witness in the context of civil proceedings.

The second and third questions raised the problem of whether "provisions laid down by law" referred to in article 12(1) of the directive were to be interpreted as being provisions which had the specific object of establishing a derogation from the prohibition

against disclosing the type of information covered by the directive or whether, on the other hand, they included general provisions on the various member States and, on the other hand, that information thus exchanged was to be covered by the obligation of professional secrecy.

Since the purpose of article 12(1) was neither to establish an absolute prohibition nor to regulate or harmonize the extent of professional secrecy, it guaranteed the professional secrecy to the extent to which it was not derogated from by existing or future provisions of national law relating to circumstances in which the disclosure of confidential information was authorized.

The general reference to provisions laid down by law in each member State demonstrated therefore that not every or subsequent law which provided for a derogation from the prohibition of disclosure of confidential information was to be taken into account.

With regard to the conflict which might arise between, on the one hand, the interest in establishing the truth which was indispensable to the administration of justice, and, on the other hand, the interest in maintaining the confidentiality of certain information, it was to be emphasized that it was for the national courts to establish the balance between those interests in the light of the national legislation and not resolved the conflict by specific legislative provisions.

Consequently, in a case such as the present, where, according to the interpretation of the national court, the national rules were of a general nature, it was for the national court to balance those interests before deciding whether a witness in possession of confidential information might or might not rely upon an obligation of secrecy by which it was bound.

In that context it was for that court in particular to assess, where necessary, the importance to be attributed to the fact that the information in question had been received by the competent authorities of the member states in accordance with article 12(2) of the directive.

On those grounds, the court held:

1 The provision of article 12(1) of Council Directive No 77/780 whereby the obligation of professional secrecy imposed on persons employed by the competent authorities meant that any confidential information which they might have received in the course of their duties might not be divulged to any person or authority except by virtue of provisions laid down by law, also included depositions made as a witness in the context of civil proceedings.

2 Legislative provisions which, pursuant to article 12(1), allowed the disclosure of information received in confidence included provisions of general effect which did not have the specific object of establishing a derogation from the prohibition against disclosing the sort of information covered by the directive but which established the limits which observance of professional secrecy imposed on the obligation to give evidence.

3 The obligation of professional secrecy imposed on persons employed by the competent authorities meant that any confidential information which they might have received in the course of their duties might not be divulged to any person or authority except by virtue of provisions laid down by law, also included depositions made as a witness in the context of civil proceedings.

4 The obligation of professional secrecy imposed on persons employed by the competent authorities meant that any confidential information which they might have received in the course of their duties might not be divulged to any person or authority except by virtue of provisions laid down by law, also included depositions made as a witness in the context of civil proceedings.

5 The obligation of professional secrecy imposed on persons employed by the competent authorities meant that any confidential information which they might have received in the course of their duties might not be divulged to any person or authority except by virtue of provisions laid down by law, also included depositions made as a witness in the context of civil proceedings.

6 The obligation of professional secrecy imposed on persons employed by the competent authorities meant that any confidential information which they might have received in the course of their duties might not be divulged to any person or authority except by virtue of provisions laid down by law, also included depositions made as a witness in the context of civil proceedings.

per time for the fruit carriage paid at the German border. The second referred only to the cost of transport from the German frontier to Mainzfrucht's premises at Gochsheim in Bavaria.

A dispute arose between Mainzfrucht and the Hauptzollamt (Principal Customs Office) as to the value of the goods for customs purposes under Council Regulation (EEC) No 1254/80 on the valuation of goods for customs purposes (OJ 1980, No L 134, p. 1).

On appeal the Bundesfinanzhof (Federal Finance Court) referred the matter to the Court of Justice of the European Communities for a preliminary ruling. In its judgment the Court of Justice held as follows:

Where a purchaser had paid a foreign vendor, in addition to the price of the goods concerned, a specific amount in respect of freight charges for transport within the Community, on the basis of a separate invoice, the transaction value for the purposes of article 3(1) of regulation No 1254/80 included only the first of those two sums.

However, the appropriate customs authorities must, where the circumstances warranted, verify the invoice relating to the charges in question in order to check that those charges were not fictitious.

7 The obligation of professional secrecy imposed on persons employed by the competent authorities meant that any confidential information which they might have received in the course of their duties might not be divulged to any person or authority except by virtue of provisions laid down by law, also included depositions made as a witness in the context of civil proceedings.

8 The obligation of professional secrecy imposed on persons employed by the competent authorities meant that any confidential information which they might have received in the course of their duties might not be divulged to any person or authority except by virtue of provisions laid down by law, also included depositions made as a witness in the context of civil proceedings.

contrary to article 85 (1) of the EEC Treaty.

The plaintiff, a company incorporated under Swiss law, manufactured and marketed mass-produced inexpensive quartz watches under the name of "Swatch". The watches were distributed in Belgium through an exclusive distributor network. They were sold with a guarantee in favour of the purchaser under which ETA guaranteed the watch for 12 months from the date of purchase against all defects of material or manufacture subject to certain exclusions.

The defendant companies sold Swatch watches, which they obtained through parallel import channels, in their original packaging which contained the guarantee certificate.

The plaintiffs brought proceedings against the parallel importers seeking to have them prohibited from including with the watches which they sold a guarantee granted by ETA in the context of its contractual relationship with its exclusive distributors.

The Tribunal du Commerce (Commercial Court) Brussels, referred a question on the compatibility of such a guarantee distribution agreement with article 85 of the EEC Treaty to the Court of Justice of the European Communities for a preliminary ruling. In its judgment the Court of Justice held as follows:

It was necessary to examine the guarantee clause in relation to the other provisions of the exclusive distribution agreement. It appeared from the file that ETA had established, within the Common Market, a distribution network which granted each dealer exclusive rights of distribution of Swatch watches within a certain area while prohibiting him from making sales outside that area.

The partitioning of markets thereby achieved amounted to a restriction of competition within the meaning of article 85(1) of the EEC Treaty.

assessed having regard to the distortion of competition which was its object or its effect. It was necessary to examine the competition within the actual context in which it would occur, the substance of the agreement or provision in dispute.

The decisive element to be taken into consideration was the actual or potential effect of the refusal of the guarantee on the competitive position of the parallel importers.

In its judgment in *Hugoboss v Commission* (Case 56/82) (The Times, February 25, 1984; [1984] ECR 883) the court pointed out that it was important that the possibility of obtaining products for parallel imports should not be limited and that it was essential that such products should be fully covered by the manufacturer's normal guarantee.

A system in which a supplier reserved a guarantee only to customers of his exclusive dealer placed the latter in an advantageous position with regard to parallel importers and distributors, and consequently, was to be considered as having the object or effect of restricting competition.

The fact that the manufacturer provided his products to be distributed through a network of parallel importers was irrelevant in that regard since the guarantee system was capable of having as its object or effect a degree of partitioning of national markets. It was for the national court to assess whether the guarantee clause in the distribution agreement was capable of affecting trade between member States.

On those grounds, the Court (Fourth Chamber) held:

A clause in an exclusive distribution agreement by which the manufacturer

SPECTRUM

The despot who rides a hungry tiger

President Muhammad Zia ul-Haq as he rides the tiger of despotism. The more he indicates that he would like to get off, the more the possibility grows that he will be eaten alive. So he smiles his famous shark-like grin and stays on top.

Now that martial law has been lifted, the General remains not only President but also Chief of Staff of the army. Since the Chief of Staff has invariably been the one to ease out the previous ruler and bring in martial law, this is at least one danger that he does not have to face immediately.

The lifting of martial law has been welcomed as no more than a change of clothing for the military regime which has ruled Pakistan for the past eight and a half years. If he does give too much away and allows the politicians to get out of control, he knows that the lieutenant-generals of the junta surrounding him are likely to be as ruthless in toppling him as he was in toppling the previous Prime Minister, Mr Zulfikar Ali Bhutto.

Yet, at first, Lt-Gen Zia showed no signs of wanting to hang on to power. When he took over and politically escorted Mr Bhutto and his ministers to Murree, the queen of hill-resorts, and lodged them comfortably in the guest houses of the town, he planned a brief clearing up of the disorders and a speedy return to elected democracy.

People who know him insist that the intention was real. He had not wanted to seize and hold power at that time, but wanted to avoid a civil war and put democracy back on its tracks. General Zia, who had been appointed Chief of Staff of the armed forces by Mr Bhutto a year earlier, was anguished by what was happening in the country in mid-1977. Opposition to the increasingly tyrannical and eccentric Prime Minister grew into a mass movement.

Bhutto, unwilling to involve the armed forces, told Zia he had arranged for cadres of the PPP - the Pakistan People's Party, the biggest political grouping at that time and the Bhuttos' vehicle to power - to be given arms.

Friends of the General say that, when the opposition parties heard

The Times Profile: President Zia

this news, they, too, started distributing arms to their supporters, though guns are a commodity rarely in short supply in Pakistan.

The generals gathered in the Chief of Staff's residence, close to the brewery in the cantonment area of Rawalpindi. There were only eight generals present (and only 35 generals altogether, a situation that has since been remedied: there are now 100). They agreed to take power. General Zia decided, after giving further assurances of support to the Prime Minister, to move at midnight on July 7, "Operation Fair Play" he called the coup.

Having taken control, without a drop of blood being spilled, he announced that new elections would be held in 90 days' time, under strict supervision and so entirely free and fair. Whichever of the warring groups won would be installed in power and the Army would return to its barracks.

After supervising the installation of the apparatus of military control, General Zia went to see Mr Bhutto. They negotiated for a while, and eventually Mr Bhutto was freed to gear himself up for the elections.

Once in Karachi, say the General's supporters sadly, the Prime Minister began a campaign against the imposition of martial law, and mayhem again threatened in the streets. Mr Bhutto was locked up and the elections were cancelled.

There was now a bitter judgement to be made, the effects of which still have not been lived down by the martial law regime. A prosecution implicating Mr Bhutto in the murder of a political opponent was brought. Under the prevailing conditions it is scarcely surprising that he was found guilty and sentenced to death. What was



Cleanliness and order for Pakistan, but no elections yet under President Zia

astounding, however, is that General Zia, no doubt with the encouragement of his junta, allowed the sentence to stand, and despite world-wide appeals Mr Bhutto was hanged on April 4, 1979.

World opinion was outraged. General Zia was depicted thereafter as a bloodthirsty killer. The clean, straightforward, disciplined image of the martial law regime became tarnished with blood. The martial law courts and their sentences of flogging became the symbol for the regime. Opponents estimate that 11,000 criminals and political dissidents have been flogged by General Zia's executors.

The growing Islamization of the country was regarded in the same way. Outlandish punishments - amputations, stoning to death, flogging of women caught in adultery - were attributed to the religious courts, even though none was actually carried out. Islamabad, which had been a reasonably cheerful town under the Bhutto regime, became the dull and alcohol-free zone it is now.

General Zia rescheduled elections for November 1979, but found them boycotted by most of the political parties. Only the Tehrik-i-Islahiyat (Solidarity Party) of Air Marshal Asghar Khan said that it would participate.

The generals met once more. "Why," they asked themselves, "should we hold elections just for

the benefit of old Asghar Khan?" It would be better, they felt, if they settled down to run the country on a more extended basis themselves and attempted to bring sobriety, cleanliness, good order and military discipline to Pakistan.

Then came General Zia's most dangerous stroke of luck. On December 27, 1979, just a month or two after the junta had decided to stay in power indefinitely, the Soviet Union invaded Afghanistan. Pakistan, which had hitherto been friendly with the United States - it had to be, in deference to India's close ties with the Soviet Union - now became the front-line state on the very border of expansionist international Communism.

General Zia's task since he took over as the country's ruler has been much like his job in Multan in 1958, only with a larger canvas. When the Army decided that holding elections was to be a second priority, he set about instituting cleanliness and order nationwide. Given his background, it was natural that the ascetic virtues of Islam would be his preferred vehicle.

While Pakistan has accordingly become a much duller place, the key to its carefully controlled descent into democracy has been in General Zia's own determination to avoid the over-excitement of popular politics, the untidiness of elections and the impression of mass appeal.

Provided such excesses can still be restrained after the lifting of martial law, he seems likely to be able to remain at the head of affairs for some longer time - a standing tribute to the virtues of good staff-work. He need not, however, be pitted too much.

Michael Hamlyn

BIOGRAPHY

1924 Born in Jullundur, August 12.
1945 Commissioned into Cavalry.
1955 Staff College, Quetta.
1963 US Staff College, Fort Leavenworth.
1964 Lt-Col and instructor at Quetta Staff College.
1969 Brigadier, served as adviser to Royal Jordanian Army until 1971.
1972 Promoted Maj-Gen.
1975 Promoted Lt-Gen.
1976 Made Chief of Army Staff.
1977 Took power as Chief Martial Law Administrator.
1978 Became President, September 18.
1983 Announced programme for return to democracy, August 12.
1984 Used referendum to extend period as President for five years.
1985 Held elections to new national and provincial assemblies. Ended martial law, December 30.

It could not have come at a better time, Pakistan found itself the special target for favours of finance and aid, particularly of a military kind, and the Zia regime was encouraged to stay in power and promote stability and military strength.

Stabilized in his position with American money and guns, General Zia remained in power, plainly believing that he was best person to bring order to Pakistan. His moves towards the re-establishment of a carefully controlled democracy have all been devised with the aim of keeping General Zia in power, no matter how much he may publicly disclaim such ambitions.

The future dictator was born in Jullundur, now an important commercial town in the Indian half of Punjab, in August 1924. His father, Mr Akbar Ali, was a government clerk. Young Zia went to a local school, but was bright enough to be sent to prestigious St Stephen's College in Delhi for his further education.

It was wartime, and the young Zia was much taken with a recruiting poster showing a dazed, tank commander, wearing the black beret of the Armoured Corps, grinning out of a turret. Second Lieutenant Zia first clipped on his pips and wore his tank commander's beret in May 1945. In the three months before the war ended he saw service in Burma, Malaya and Java.

He must have been a rather difficult colleague. The Indian Army of that time, both before and after independence, built the officers' social life around the mess, with uninhibited drinking, highjinks and much social contact between the sexes. Zia was a committed Muslim who would not touch alcohol, shunned open friendship with women and prayed five times a day. On the other hand he was, and always has been, agreeable, polite and considerate in social situations.

When independence came, he was serving on the North-West Frontier, that austere Muslim rock-cape. His family chose to migrate to Pakistan

and he settled them in Peshawar, where his mother still lives. His brothers have not done famously: one owns a Karachi shoe-shop, the other is a spice merchant.

His frontier posting meant also that he saw no action in the post-independence Kashmir war and, indeed, has not seen action since. In 1965 war with India he was a staff officer at the headquarters of an armoured division and at the outbreak of the Bangladesh war of independence in 1971 he was on secondment commanding the Pakistani forces sent to Jordan. However, he has proved himself again and again as a punctilious, highly competent staff officer.

His country's first experience of martial law came in 1958, when the President, Major-General Iskander Mirza, abdicated the constitution only to find himself eased out of the job by his Chief of Army Staff, General Ayub Khan, a far-sighted later, Major (as he then was) was given charge of bringing calm and cleanliness to the town of Multan. "He made sure there were no flies or mosquitoes on the tea tables", said an admirer later.

When Zia, who had been promoted to Brigadier two years earlier, returned from Jordan in 1971 for the end of Bangladesh's war of independence, he found the Army almost bereft of generals because so many had been disgraced in the war. His promotion was rapid. He was made Major-General in 1971 and Lieutenant-General in 1975.

When Mr Bhutto looked for someone to replace Lt-Gen Tikka Khan, the so-called "Butcher of Bengal", as Chief of Army Staff, his eye fell on the punctilious, loyal and religious Zia. General Tikka Khan did not recommend him. "I thought he was dull", he complained later. "In any case, he was the most junior of all the eight lieutenant-generals".

General Zia's task since he took over as the country's ruler has been much like his job in Multan in 1958, only with a larger canvas. When the Army decided that holding elections was to be a second priority, he set about instituting cleanliness and order nationwide. Given his background, it was natural that the ascetic virtues of Islam would be his preferred vehicle.

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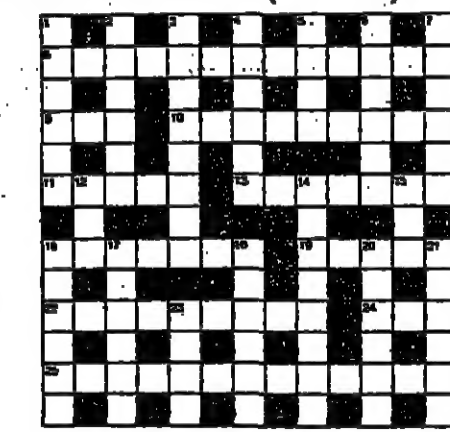
CONCISE CROSSWORD (No 838)

ACROSS

- 8 As result (2,11)
- 9 Intent (3)
- 10 Legging wear (9)
- 11 Thick (5)
- 12 Courage (7)
- 13 Campaign (7)
- 14 Film (5)
- 22 Penetrable (9)
- 24 Bounder (3)
- 25 Fellowship (6,2,5)

DOWN

- 1 Course (6)
- 2 Insight (6)
- 3 Detested person (8)
- 4 Souper (6)
- 5 Large piece (4)
- 6 Persuade (6)
- 7 Gradually (6)
- 13 Be wrong (3)
- 14 Spectators (8)
- 15 Decay (3)
- 16 Secret message (6)
- 17 Immature (6)
- 18 Express (6)



20 Permanent account (6)
21 Cruelty enjoyer (6)
22 Go out (4)

SOLUTION TO No 837

ACROSS: 1 Suck 2 Nudge 3 Unbrake 11 Overtake 13 Knot 14 Vicious 15 Suck 16 Suck 17 Suck 18 Suck 19 Suck 20 Suck 21 Suck 22 Suck

DOWN: 1 Hedge 3 Ice 4 Knuckle-duster 5 Pubs 6 Channel 7 Incomplete 10 Extraneous 12 Taps 14 Ends 16 Replicas 19 Rajah 20 Suck 22 Suck

The power of alternative aid

There's a welcome, and a lesson, for Bob Geldof in a Welsh centre powered by the wind.

Gareth Huw Davies saw it in action

A windmill spins furiously in a wet Welsh gale on a hilltop above Machynlleth. Down below, in the shelter of an old slate quarry, its gyrations power the lights that glow out of the December midday gloom from the huddle of restored labourers' cottages which make up Britain's most successful testing ground for a simpler and more environmentally benign technology.

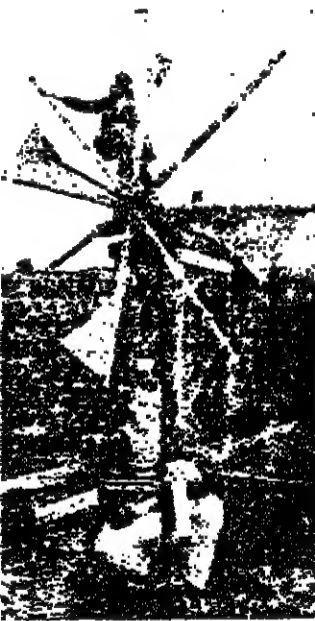
The Centre for Alternative Technology enters its eleventh year in its mid-Wales farmhouse, with an increasingly confident appeal to the over-consuming west to change its ways. But while the centre wants to catch the strengthening wind from the environmental movement in Britain and Europe, there could be a more immediate application for its ideas in Africa, societies devastated by drought and famine.

The cost of recreating a self-sustaining Sudan could be quite modest

Once the starving have been revived with grain from big western trucks running on expensive OPEC-priced petrol, it will be time for a long-term view. The centre believes it could give much practical advice to Bob Geldof's Band Aid Trust as it ponders how to spend its outstanding millions. While aid experts have theorized, the centre has been successfully testing the manufacturing, power generation and food production processes which could turn aid-dependent villages into contented, self-reliant communities.

The information the centre's director, Peter Raine, would like to give to Band Aid - surprisingly no one from Geldof's organization has yet visited the centre - is that the cost of recreating a self-sustaining Ethiopia or Sudan could be modest. Raine's programme would be high on practical instruction and low on capital project.

"Our technological solutions are small-scale, relatively easy to understand and don't depend on men in white coats maintaining them. They can be carried out here by us, or in the



Alternative technology: Peter Raine and windmill aid

African village. At all costs, the aid organizations should avoid knee-deep projects like big dams, hospitals or food programmes which involve the latest in food technology.

The most expensive piece of equipment any village should require is a wind electricity generator or water pump. The centre, along with a few island communities, has the rare practical experience of drawing its power from the wind. Even Oxford's offices are lit from the National Grid.

The community, with a core resident population of 12 adults and four children, rising to 60 in the summer when 30,000 visitors pass through, runs itself on the power from the 15kW Polenko windmill and two water turbines. Raine, who heats his cottage and powers his fridge and stereo on 40 watts a night, says: "I find it perfectly adequate. For a village which has never had electricity, 40 watts would be fantastically useful. You can run a radio without worrying about batteries, a fridge and emergency communications."

Dr Robert Todd, technical director at the centre, is anxious that long-term solutions in Africa should not include the diesel generator. "This generator is probably the cheapest at the outset. But immediately villages become dependent on vulnerable imported oil and spare parts". Todd argues that after five years the wind pump works out cheaper than the diesel pump.

The Polenko windmill cost the centre £12,000 and £8,000

to install. But African villages don't need to buy the value-added western import. Windmills can easily be made locally, says Todd. The centre proves this by making its own in an improvised blacksmith's shop.

The charcoal furnaces are made from petrol drums, which it demonstrates to Voluntary Service Overseas (VSO) engineers, who are mainly in the profound mystery of high tech equipment. Todd points to a 40 watt wind-pump, its aluminium head made from "the melted-down crank cases from a Mini and a half, fired up with used sump oil".

The centre's pump is all metal and requires far less precision in its manufacture than a diesel pump. But even that pump is made in the workshop, the pump in the country is cheaper than buying one ready-made. Raine says a British engineer on secondment could impart the simple skills of manufacture to a society already receptive to self-help. Even better, he says, would be to put money in to local technical colleges to train indigenous engineers.

Once the pump is built, how do they ensure it works efficiently? The centre offers an unexpected solution. It has designed and built its own computerized, solar-powered data-logger which keeps a record of the pump's performance for up to six months, so that pumps and windmills can be sited where they perform best. At around £1,500, this works out as the centre's most expensive piece of technology but, once sites in a region have been logged, the cost would be recouped by increased pump efficiency.

The centre offers an adventure trail of sensible solutions

The centre, an independent body raising its income from visitors, courses and sales, offers an adventure trail of sensible solutions around the converted cottages - from solar space heaters, ideal for a desert region like the Sahel where days are hot and nights can be bitterly cold, to low-energy stoves and a fish pond. For famine regions, Raine recommends the tilapia, a vegetarian fish living off scraps or algae.

For many of the ideas it claims no credit at all. What it has done is give them a working home while the advanced west has pressed on with higher cost and environmentally suspect

remedies, which it has then tried to pass off on the underdeveloped Third World.

Unprepared it is the attitude of the First World which, Raine believes, could still defeat any attempt to re-equip underdeveloped countries with the technology the centre advocates. In its first 10 years the centre has concentrated on preaching to the west, which he sees as chiefly responsible for Third World problems. Raine believes the solutions have to be promoted in the west in order to make them respectable to the Third World: "Governments in underdeveloped countries are likely to reject them if they perceive them to be second-best here. If it gets to the point that windmills are considered appropriate for Africa but not for Britain then we have failed."



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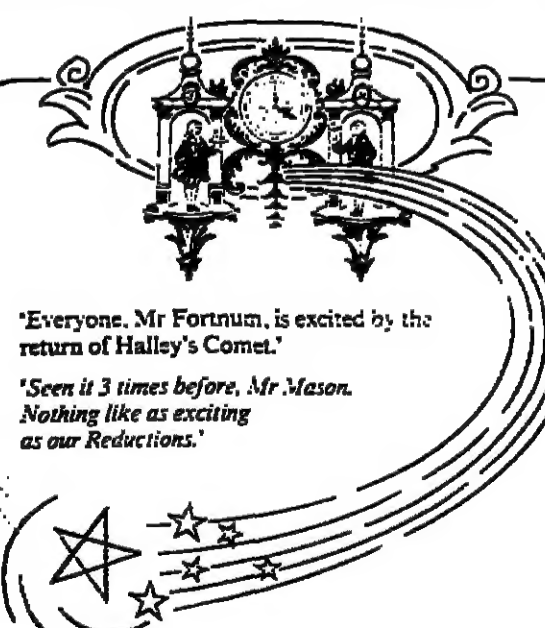
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BOOKS

Footsteps in France with a passion

The French have an expression for this one. Shoulders out, palms out, eyebrows down, lips like a citron pressé and: *Boouf!* It translates roughly as: very charming, but does one really need a guide to France?

A map, a corkscrew, a copy of Montaigne's *Essays* plus the local *journal du soir*, would seem to me to cover most eventualities. Together of course with a passion for something (or someone) irredeemably Gallic; which is the only thing the French really like about foreigners anyway.

A candid passion for the game of *housers*, for example, will take you deep into the intricacies of French village life, and even deeper still when it becomes *pétanque* (and *petard*) south of a line drawn through Le Puy. (Collins: "On the summit stands an enormous, unappealing red cast-iron statue, Notre-Dame-de-France, 16 metres high and weighing 110 tons.") The word *pétanque*, incidentally, meaning one foot fixed to the earth, a sound first principle in travelling too.

Or again, a *tendresse* for French railway-station restaurants (and not only the five-star at the Gare de Lyons, with its wonderful Second Empire murals) will transport you far down the line till you discover something like the Buffet de la Gare at Valenciennes, which proposes three kinds of Boulette d'Avesnes cheese, those peppery pink volcanoes, and a rare *petit rosé de Bourgogne*. (Collins: "Flemish belfry housing 47 bells... nearby St Amand still visited as a spa.")

Or perhaps a healthy interest in French medieval beast-carvings and grotesques, which must certainly start off at Dijon cathedral where St Benigne was haunted by man-eating owls, and where it is best to touch for luck the small winged stone creature in the church wall of the Rue de la Chouette, before descending to the 10th century crypt where he was immured with those familiar graphically illustrated on the pillars. (Collins: "Jaquemart clock with mechanical models... famous mustard.")

Or plain hero-worship (an emotion well understood in France) for some particular writer or painter who has his special *terre natale*: Flaubert in Normandy, Nerval in the Valois, Van Gogh in Provence. (Collins: "In Arles he cut off his ear.")

Or quite simply a desire to peer into those hundreds of little French

museums, dotted round the whole country, which are so characteristic of the land of local *chercheurs* and bitty enthusiasts: bagpipers at Entracasse, lead soldiers at Compiègne, vintage cars at Uzès, early cinematography at Beaune, waxworks at Montmartre, or ballooning at Bayeux. All of which, I have to admit at once, are duly noted in Collins.

For such a guide does have certain functions of *animation à l'orientation*. It prepares the ground, and points the trail for purely personal quests, which are to me the only real reason for packing a suitcase. Compiled by a posse of professional Francophiles, ranging from a Professor of French History to the Travel Editor of the *Daily Telegraph*, the Collins production shows pleasing and unmistakable signs of Gallic madness, despite some of those leaden *Gazetteer* entries and a general aroma of *le fast-food touristique*.

There is after all a definite art to guide-writing, which should somehow combine pedantry with poetry. (An earnest young clergyman once gravely asked William Wordsworth if he had ever published anything besides his splendid *Guide to the Lake District*.) Compared with the dated formalism of Hachette's *Guide Bleu*, which Roland Barthes denounced as "the bourgeois sacrifice of men to monuments", the Collins Guide is human, bustling, idiosyncratic, and blessedly compact. It is also dreamily illustrated with landscapes, portraits, and wine labels.

Edited by John Ardagh, the encyclopaedic author of *France in the 1980s* it is divided into two sections: a collection of seven aperitif essays, followed by a 300 page *Gazetteer* covering 21 regions and reflecting the well-known Ardagh emphasis on decentralization and the resurgence of French provincial life. The essays attempt to define, while the *Gazetteer* tries to find a local habitation and a name: two approaches that do not always agree. There seems to be a difference of opinion, for example, on whether there really is a wonderful new gallery of Modern Art at Troyes. But as De Gaulle once sagely remarked, France is a land of over 300 different cheeses, which is what makes it so difficult to govern.

This governing section of the book remains unsatisfactory, in as far as it suggests that, for the traveller, French culture consists solely of History, Architecture, Wine, Art, Literature,

Richard Holmes on the first book of the new year and a French companion

THE COLLINS GUIDE TO FRANCE
Edited by John Ardagh
Collins, £15

and Cooking (known here as *Gastronomie*). Particularly when Literature appears to end with the arrival of Alan Robbe-Grillet in Maribad, and History with the arrival of Hitler in Paris (though the two events may not be dissimilar in artistic terms). Leaving aside the possibilities of *boules* (Sports), railway restaurants

(Communications), and beast carvings (Religion), surely one might like to know about Music, or Cinema, or Gardening, or Industrial Design?

The publisher's answer will be: no space, so *faute de mieux*. And to be fair, some of the introductory essays are small masterpieces of evocation and compression. Art, by Marc Jordan of the Courtauld Institute, and Wine, by Steven Spurrier of L'Académie du Vin, are both particularly striking, and I could read forever about Claude's "tender tones of fading day" or the "nectar-like Muscat de Beaumes de Venise, with its heady aroma of ripe peaches". Pedantry and poetry indeed.

But the problem persists that all such guides, if we accept their terms, inevitably try to sell us a kind of pre-packaged, historical daydream of France, *la belle France sur gelée*. We are offered a country to be brisquely consumed like a menu *carte touristique*, rather than a place to be slowly explored; and above all a place to get

lost in. For a true cicerone, who will abandon you on a corner or in a café or at the beginning of a long boulevard of dusty plane trees, give me Richard Cobb or Georges Simenon or Jacques Brel every time.

Still, we must all start somewhere I suppose; and landing say at Le Havre, we should perhaps be grateful to know that the reinforced concrete port was constructed by Auguste Perret, that the tower of the Hotel de Ville is 72 metres high, and that the Art Museum contains 300 pictures and drawings by Boudin. It is only later that we may discover by other, more circuitous routes, snatched conversations *au zinc*, books from the stall, and wanderings in the dusk, that this was also the setting of the *Quai des Brumes*, that this was where the author of *Zazie dans le Métro* wrote his first novels, and that this was where the oldest football team in France, *le Racing Havrais*, was founded — by the English, *bien sûr*.



La Place de l'Eglise, Saint-Yeure en Valdaire, Dauphiné, by Richard Cole

The marvellous boy poet cut off in his prime

Patric Dickinson

CHARLES HAMILTON SORLEY
By Jean Moorcroft Wilson
Cecil Woolf, £12.50

"So be merry, so be dead." In his short life (1895-1915) Charles Sorley was merry, extremely intelligent and loving, and increasingly individual. He met with what one can only say was a merciful death, by a sniper's bullet in the head. So be dead.

He was a poet of vivid promise. Sorley, he once wrote, is the Gaelic for "wanderer" — but as Dr Wilson shows in this very good biography — he did anything but wander, except in his mind. His father, Professor Sorley, after a professorship at Aberdeen became Professor of Moral Philosophy (as befitted a Scot) at Cambridge, a Fellow of King's. Dr Wilson emphasizes that the Sorleys had no idea in 1900 that King's was what it is now said to have been, though the Professor sat, no doubt, at High Table with the philosopher G. E. Moore, the "guru" of Bloomsbury. The Sorleys led a steady don and don's wife sort of life, and Charles and his twin brother, Kenneth, went as schoolboys to the King's Choir School. Charles was the quicker.

When it came to the time of division, Mrs Sorley (a most lively Scot, also, who liked Gorton because it had a chapel and a swimming bath) seems to have backed Charles's wish to go to Marlborough. Of course he got a scholarship. Much of this book must be filled with school and Dr Wilson does this with great application, Marlborough was founded as a school

for the sons of the clergy and therefore had cheap fees. Louis MacNeice was sent there and detested it; Bejeman's father was a merchant. But three first rate poets in this century is no bad tally — not to speak of a first rate actor like James Mason, or a writer like Beverley Nichols.

Sorley, as he rose in the school, became more and more critical of the "system". What he got from Marlborough was good teaching, and running alone, often in rain, for miles over the Downs. Somehow the warm 18th century town and the rather hideous school buildings, and the landscape, were able to plant in him a seed of solitude and often a ferocious independence, as they did in MacNeice and Bejeman. Dr Wilson is excellent on Sorley's reading; his "push" for Merdith, then Massfield, then Hardy, then Ibsen in German translation. Of course, by 1913, he had got a scholarship to Oxford. Putting in time, he spent it, at his parents' behest, in Germany at Schwerin and at Jena University. He liked what he saw and the people he met. He had a tricky time getting home that August 1914. He disliked intensely the idea of war: "You are blind like us," he wrote to the Germans in a poem: to his mother, that war was casting out Satan by Satan. It was no crusade, and he identified himself, as a Scot, as much with the Germans as the English. He had no use for Rupert Brooke's patriotic sonnets; but it was his "duty", as every young man's, (and Brooke had backed Charles's wish to go to Marlborough. Of course he got a scholarship. Much of this book must be filled with school and Dr Wilson does this with great application, Marlborough was founded as a school

It is as ridiculous to speak of this young poet as a "war-poet" as of Edward Thomas, but one finds that to write of it puts leeches on one's heart and mind. So be merry, so be dead.

Up Eros, up with Art

John Russell Taylor

ALFRED GILBERT
By Richard Dornment
Yale, £19.95

From the pictures, he looks like a perky little fellow: completely clean-shaven in his mid-thirties when, around 1890, any artist who was going to amount to anything had already managed to achieve the look of a patriarch. Too perky by half, no doubt, for he had already reached a remarkable eminence, with the promise of riches and fame, the commission for the Shaftesbury Fountain (commonly known as Eros) under his belt, and just round the corner a royal misfortune, nearly a royal scandal, which he would be able to retrieve with possibly perjured evidence and, we may uncharitably but not unreasonably suppose, be suitably rewarded for his pains. (Which was not too difficult, since the problem was caused by the sudden death of the royal's favourite sculptor, Sir Joseph Boehm. In it, it is said, a compromising position with Princess Louise.) What could stand in the way of his instant ascent to the top of his profession?

What indeed, except Alfred

Gilbert's own fault of procrastination, easy distractibility, and fecklessness with money, which were destined to bring him bankruptcy, disgrace, and self-imposed exile within 10 years — though exile still on a surprisingly lavish scale. He was evidently an impossible man, though he recognized his own impossibility on occasion with disarming frankness. He was also a great sculptor, and that continued to tell with betrayed friends and cheated patrons, right up to the Royal Family, which had to see him selling off the first and finest versions of the figures for his masterpiece, the Clarence Memorial at Windsor, for ready cash instead of placing them as decency required on the long-unfinished tomb. All the same, in the end it was finished, a quarter of a century later, and Gilbert even got his chance to create another masterpiece, the Alexandra Memorial. It is not an edifying tale, even as Mr Dornment tells it, with a mixture of amusement and exasperation at the antics of his central character. Or maybe it is a very edifying tale, in that it seems finally to show that the English do care a lot more about art than they are ever supposed to, or why would they have put up with so much for so long? But then, you have only to look at the wonderful pictures to know exactly why.

The roots of the Jews

Raphael Loewe

THE ROAD FROM BABYLON
The Story of Sephardim and Oriental Jews
By Chaim Raphael
Weidenfeld & Nicholson, £16.95

Since the French Revolution Gentiles in western Europe and America have generally seen the Jews as stemming immediately or at a few generations remove from the great hearth of Yiddish-speaking, "Ashkenazi" Jewry in Eastern Europe, with perhaps a few decades exposure to western education and values through emancipation, whereas the "Sephardim" — popularly, but not quite accurately associated with the Levant — appeared exotic. The reverse was previously the norm, and since Israel's demography now shows a majority loosely labelled "Sephardic" (i.e. non-Ashkenazic) outside observers may need guidance in comprehending the rather different *ethos* of Sephardi Judaism, traditionally no less committed to staunch observance than the Ashkenazim, but less tension-fraught or inclined to religious one-upmanship, and perhaps more maturely aware that authority sometimes needs to be blind and deaf, and its establishment not troubled about the Jewish legitimacy of cultural pluralism. Chaim Raphael adopts a broadly historical framework.

Strictly speaking, "Sephardim" are descendants of Jews once resident in the Iberian peninsula, where for a few brief centuries their literary culture enjoyed a golden age; but the Mediterranean axis of their origins and affinities, stretching in particular to Iraq or "Babylon", and the effect of enforced migrations to the Ottoman empire after expulsion from Spain in 1492 and Portugal in 1497 has extended the term to cover all oriental Jewries. Save

in Salonika, etc., westernizing education funded from French and English Jewry reached but a few, so that the mass Sephardi immigration to Israel found itself a *de facto* second-class estate (a situation now being strenuously remedied), and the term "this" took on some political colouring, with electoral potentialities eagerly espoused by Menachem Begin and his *Hervu* party.

In the seventeenth century the "real" Sephardim — ex-cryptos — were reverting to their faith, on leaving Spain or Portugal, in Amsterdam, London etc. — had been trail-blazers in the west; long commercial and administrative experience in Spain during the Christian reconquest, as well as in Arab lands, having prepared them for their role as entrepreneurs playing a leading part in the development of modern capitalism. Chaim Raphael outlines not only their story, but that of their far-flung and colourful cousins from the Atlas to Kurdistan.

Bold, impressionistic strokes are used, reasonably enough; but he does not always manage to avoid over-simplification. The magnificent Toledo synagogue is no longer displayed as the "Church of el transito" (which it became), but is proudly sign-posted in the streets in Hebrew and Spanish as *sinagoga*. Nor is it quite fair to claim that the hapless victims of the "Blood-accusation" in Damascus in 1840, though released, were never "declared innocent". Moses Montefiore, on his oriental secretary's advice, insisted that an equivocal Turkish word for *pardon* be replaced in the *firman* by "honourable release".

In general, this is a useful outline to the uninitiated of an "untidy" subject, which the author has succeeded in rendering relatively coherent. The illustrations, too, are good, although some descriptions are incorrect.

Jan Morris

THE EXTENDED CIRCLE
A Dictionary of Humane Thought
Edited by Jon Wynne-Tyson
Corgi Press, £4.95

God knows there is no shortage of great issues in the world, but fundamentally to them all, in my view, is the issue of man's relationship with the rest of nature, and particularly with the animals. If we could settle the one, surely we could settle all the rest — for what is a nuclear arms race, compared with the Matter of Man and Beast?

My own opinions about man and the animals are extreme. I believe all living things to be of equal value; a human soul is no more precious, and no less, than the soul of a beetle or a bear. It follows that the rights of animals should be precisely the same as the rights of man; and that while in our present state of enlightenment we cannot achieve such a consummation, we should at least recognize as criminal all zoos and safari parks (unlawful imprisonment), all animal experimentation (torture), all blood sports (murder) and all phoney preservation

Ring the bells of Heaven the wildest peal for years

Dictionary of Humane Thought, and it constitutes a dazzling register of people who have, down the centuries, thought about man's place in nature in just the way I do myself. There is nothing more gratifying, to a reviewer or a reader, than to be able to say "I told you so".

But the myriad surprises of the book are like a refresher course for animal egalitarians. Who would ever have supposed that Mark Twain believed in the moral superiority of animals ("Heaven is by favor; if it were by merit your dog would go in and you would stay out") or that Abraham Lincoln actually used the phrase "animal rights"? Here is Roy Fuller reminding us that it is man who has fallen, not the beasts — "that is the message even for the irreligious". Here is D. M. Thomas describing in verse the ghastly vision of Sun Valley, "allegedly

the largest chicken factory in Europe". It is an angry and sorrowful book, but it is also full of beauty — D. H. Lawrence on the glory of a Sicilian viper could move the heart, one would think, of a snakeskin handbag-maker.

But for me the chief splendour of *The Extended Circle* is its absoluteness. It is full of absolute opinions, absolutely expressed. Gorillas, declares Pat Derby flatly, "are what we should be". "I would rather submit to the worst of deaths," says Robert Browning of vivisection, "than have a single dog or cat slaughtered." "The art of angling," says Byron, "is the cruelest, the coldest, and the staidest of pretended sports".

That's the stuff! That's the way to stun the dinner party! I urge this book upon all waverers in the cause of natural reconciliation. It is the ideal confirmation present for religiously-raised children. It should be on every St Anne's wedding list. Complimentary copies ought to go to M.F.H.s, curators of zoos, animal experimenters, dolphin-trainers; and somebody should send half-a-dozen to those insistent savages, somewhere in California, who are trying to make gorillas talk.

Scotch on the rocks

HISTORICALS

Philippa Toomey

THE WORLD, THE FLESH AND THE DEVIL
By Reay Tannahill
Century, £9.95

VICTORIA VICTORIOUS
By Jean Plaidy
Hale, £9.95

SUCH MIGHTY RAGE
By C. Guy Clayton
Macdonald, £9.95

Once again the Scottish castle of Kinveir, home of the Camerons, is the setting for Reay Tannahill's second, enormous historical novel. In a jump backwards from the 19th century of *A Dark and Distant Shore*, Kinveir in the 15th century is a primitive stone tower, with a heather rope ladder instead of a staircase, when we first encounter the hero, Gavin Cameron, aged 11, who has just killed his first man.

He is on his way to seek his fortune, in the Church, the only avenue for a penniless youth with huge ambitions. Next we see him, in his early 30s, as Bishop of Glasgow, Chancellor of Scotland, and advisor and close friend to James I of Scotland, a man driven by the sense that time was running out in his attempt to drag the Scottish nobles and their way of life out of the violent past.

Add in to this the lovely Ninian, ward of Archdeacon Columba Crozier. She falls in love with Gavin at first sight, regardless that Columba and he are deadly enemies. The Church was still pondering the celibacy

of the clergy, and both Columba and Gavin felt less than hampered by the vow of chastity. This is an excellent adventure story, reminding the comfortable 20th century of the horrors of the plague, though we need no reminding of assassinations. Little is known of the real historical characters, Gavin Cameron and Columba Crozier, and this has left Reay Tannahill free to weave a tale of Scotland and the Scots in a violent but exciting moment in history.

If the court of James I was unlike that of our own dear Queen, she is in person in Jean Plaidy's *Victoria Victorious*, allegedly writing her memoirs in old age. Queen Victoria was a most extraordinary human being — her heredity being enough to keep a watch over her progress with a very sharp eye. The wonder is that she turned out as she did, with an ambitious and scheming Mama (not to mention Sir John Conroy), wicked uncles skulking in the background, and the cynical Lord Melbourne as first tutor in the ways of the world.

Second in what promises to be a trilogy, *Such Mighty Rage* is the continuing story of Marguerite, Lady Blakeney, as told by herself. Guy Clayton has turned the well-known saga of the Scarlet Pimpernel around, and this Marguerite is a revolutionary, married to Sir Percy in a marriage of convenience. Revenge and patriotism surge through her veins (she is a powerful actress) and she doubles as herself and her fictional brother Armand with the sang froid of a quick-change artist. The sang is pretty cold as she plots and plans, often with disastrous, but hilarious results.

Elucidating the maze

Paul Griffiths

GUSTAV MAHLER
Songs and Symphonies of Life and Death
By Donald Mitchell
Faber, £35

This is a heroic labour. As Donald Mitchell has journeyed through the words of Mahler's symphonies, so his findings have become ever more dense and detailed, until in this third volume 650-odd pages are devoted to the considering of just one main work, *The Song of the Earth*, together with the Eighth Symphony (which Mitchell tellingly views as a postlude to the song-symphony, even though it was composed before) and the Rückert songs which are seen to adumbrate the late style of *The Song of the Earth*, the Eighth Symphony, and the instrumental symphonies from 5 to 10 that will be the subject of what Mitchell promises will be his last Mahler volume. It is hard to think of any great composer who has won so faithful and fluent a commentator, one who bases his interpretations on a close study of score, sketches, and literary background. It is also unusual to find a writer these days willing to rest so momentary a work on the grand assumption of humane criticism: that works of art can be, and should be, elucidated.

But then Mahler very encouragingly invites, almost insists upon such elucidation: this is presumably what we mean by calling his music "autobiographical". It is not that the music in any vulgar sense expresses the circumstances of

Mahler's life, but rather that the music is a life, with shaping characteristics that colour what happens to it under particular circumstances.

This makes for a prose text which is itself as complex in form as a Mahler symphony. Thus each of the three parts of the book, on the Rückert songs, *The Song of the Earth* and the Eighth Symphony, is divided into two sections: "Interpretations" and "Annotations". In the first Mitchell puts his view of how we are to understand the music; in the second he justifies that view with reference to the sources and to other commentators, or else he presents some extrapolation or aside. Reading the book, therefore, one finds oneself diving through the successive thoughts of Mahler's drafts, or led along a chain of notes concerned, say, with Mahler's use of the celesta. It is a book that asks to be entered as a labyrinth, and its explanations are labyrinthine too, as they have to be.

One may quarrel with some of Mitchell's conclusions: I would not accept, for instance, that the first movement of *The Song of the Earth* is a "protest against the dark sentiments of the poem"; it seems rather to empower the hedonism of the words, which are already well on the way towards escaping from "dark sentiments". But the great bulk of the book feels right, not least because it is so honestly expressed. Mitchell scrupulously acknowledges what he has drawn from others, and the voice of his book is the first person singular of a letter writer. No doubt other views of Mahler remain to be revealed or constructed, but this "I" has seen more than any other so far.

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NEW YEAR DIARY

Alan Franks

The morning after the era before

On Tuesday night I walked into the end of a New Year's Eve party, the very end. I'm not sure what I was doing there, all I know is that it was roughly in the Barnes area, and that I was not driving.

It was the nearest imitation that well-to-do suburbia can offer of Culloden's aftermath. Bodies everywhere, not quite dead, but feigning it very well. There were film producers, TV actors with half-familiar faces after two decades of sitcom type-casting, and lawyers still earnest and articulate after six hours of excess.

Small children were being flung about in the air like compliant partners in the tango while the adult pair, feigning for her job, tried to coax them back up into the boring darkness for a last despairing session of Roald Dahl in a Swedish accent.

Inventive canapés were being murdered underfoot like beetles in the thick pile, together with the Trivial Pursuit cards, the ring stains of wine glasses were embossed on the tablecloth and a Portuguese caterer wept inwardly at the fate of her creations.

I found my brain sprinting back 20 years to the mid-Sixties, when this self-same cast had been assembled, lacking only the paunches, suits and jowls which are the true cost of the expense-account lunch and 20 used diaries. This later occasion was, as they say of such parties, just like an Anthony Powell novel, with its own private versions of Wiltshire, Silbury and Quiggin. A sort of gaudy sundress from its college. It is at such moments that you realize that social coincidence, far from being a fabric composed of accidents, is the natural concomitant of a common past.

I recognized one face in particular - a once-aquiline one whose cheeks were at last yielding to the nose for prominence. The last time I had seen him he had been hunched in the corner of a squat, a slightly aged virgin pretending to read the lyrics of the *Sergeant Pepper* album sleeve. In fact, he had been pondering the chances of a quick entanglement with the last unattached girl at the party, a large and encouragingly naive American oarswoman from Cambridge.

His plan must have succeeded, for on Tuesday night he introduced this same girl, or woman, as his wife. He has become a lecturer in popular cultural studies, at a well-known polytechnic, while she has given up a career in occupational therapy to bear his children.

We were surrounded by three actors and two critics, the latter of whom had given the former a roasting over some Wodekin revival in a pub theatre. There followed an exchange of drunken unpleasantities dark with the rumblings of a future round of score-settling.

Then came the statutory hippie-turned-accountant: the literary ewe now able to pass himself off as a Young Fogey; a maker of minor commercials who expected us to know the entire body of his works; a single writer wanting only to rubbish Lloyd Webber; and many more.

There we all stood, and swayed, putting the best possible gloss on time's indifferent passage, when the door burst open and a group of strangely well-spoken punks blew in from the street. They seemed extraordinarily dated as only people can do whose culture has out-recently-wanted. To their credit, they did not try the line about being friends of friends; they just apologized for having gate-crashed, and made themselves at home. They even glanced compassionately at the young executive slumped across the bean-bags.

The handsomest and shyest of the punks detached himself from his friends and in the moulting shadow of the Christmas tree pretended to read the lyrics of a Boomtown Rats album.

The au pair reappeared, having finally got Saul down in the top bed. So did a cocky writer of 40 called Hilary who is about to separate from one of the prone producers in the next room. Both females were clearly interested in the young intruder.

I don't know which one, if either, he got - or how, or where - because at this point time caught up with me and I fell asleep. I must find out.

BARRY FANTONI



'Neville's depressed: he got an OBE but wasn't even mentioned in the Today radio poll'

Tax: don't narrow the net

by Graham Mather

As Nigel Lawson and his Treasury colleagues prepare for their annual pre-Budget planning meeting, at Chevening, the debate on whether he should cut the basic rate of income tax or increase tax thresholds by more than the inflation rate needs some cool reappraisal.

The Chancellor's critics are unanimous in favour of over-indexing thresholds. Their case is attractive. Threshold changes can help the lower paid, take people out of tax altogether, and attack the poverty and unemployment traps. That is why they have been favoured in successive Budgets.

But there are signs that the case for tax threshold changes is now being argued on lines that owe more to politics than to economic efficiency. Tax rate cuts, it is asserted, would constitute an electoral bribe, a handout to Tory supporters.

The argument does not stand up. Cuts in income tax rates have been or are about to be introduced in economies as diverse as those of Denmark, France, West Germany, New Zealand, Norway, Spain, Sweden, Thailand and the US. This international thrust of policy among widely divergent political leaderships reflects a pragmatic assessment that lower rates of income tax will prove economically beneficial, rather than a shared desire to channel hand-outs to government supporters or the well off.

Paris. Few doubt a right-wing victory when France goes to the polls in March. But then what? Crisis and political chaos, or peaceful cohabitation between the new right-wing government and the left-wing president who will still have another two years of his seven-year mandate left to serve?

Who will represent France's interests abroad? The prime minister or the president? Where will the seat of power lie? Will Francois Mitterrand be forced to resign? Such a situation has never arisen before under the Fifth Republic, and the constitution has never been put to the test.

Jacques Chirac, leader of the Gaullist RPR party and the man most strongly tipped to become the new prime minister, probably had the best answer when he commented: "There are three possible scenarios after March 1986. And then there is a fourth - the one you haven't thought of, and neither have I. And it will be that one."

Some observers believe that what emerges will depend largely on the size of the victory obtained by the right. If it is an absolute majority of more than 100 seats in the new 571-seat parliament, they argue, Mitterrand is likely to choose one of the leaders of the opposition, probably Chirac, as prime minister. If the majority is between 50 and 100, he may call in a more moderate, centrist politician such as Jacques Chaban-Delema or Simone Veil.

And if there is a right-wing majority of less than 50, he may feel he can go outside the political arena and choose a distinguished "technician", someone equally acceptable to right and left.

Most of the polls still indicate a 20-point gap between the right and the left. That could produce a landslide victory for the right. But the polls also show that between a quarter and a third of the electorate are still undecided. Furthermore, what people say in a moment of exasperation in answer to an opinion poll may be quite different from their actual vote. So the result could be much closer than that now forecast.

There is another unknown factor: Mitterrand's intentions. Not for nothing have his impetuous character and unpredictable behaviour earned him the titles of the Sphinx and the Machiavellian Prince. He declines to countenance (in public even the possibility of) defeat and therefore refuses to discuss what he will do, save to indicate that he intends to "do his duty" and serve the remaining two years of his mandate.

That is by no means certain, however. Many politicians do not see how Mitterrand could stay, particularly if the left suffers a severe

Nor is it clear that income tax rate cuts do have enormous vote-swinging appeal in Britain. MOR's November national opinion poll put taxation way down the list of issues identified as important by voters, in joint 13th place with a 2 per cent score. In another poll, respondents overwhelmingly said they would be prepared to see a penny increase in income tax to pay for measures to protect wildlife and the environment.

The notion that the British public will always put principle behind immediate self-interest is not only unattractive: it is not borne out by the facts. If anything, Crippsian austerity at Budget time seems to catch the national mood.

It is the economic effects of tax changes which are more likely to influence the Chancellor. In Britain, the main growth points in terms of employment opportunities are new and small businesses. Most of these are taxed primarily by reference to income tax rates. Over-indexing thresholds does relatively little to help them.

Many agree that more help is needed for low-paid workers with families. But these have now had their position improved in two ways. First, they have benefited from the 20 per cent real increase in

thresholds since 1979. Secondly, Norman Fowler's new Family Credit scheme will be paid on income after tax, reducing the need to adjust thresholds because of the poverty and unemployment traps.

The poverty and unemployment traps themselves are, to a great degree, problems of perception. They make it seem unattractive to take a job, or work harder, because of tax or benefit drawbacks. The problem with tax thresholds, however, is that they are very difficult to perceive. Most people simply do not know their tax threshold, either at the starting point or higher up the scales. Different national insurance thresholds make the picture still more difficult to disentangle. Tax rates are much more easily perceived, remembered, and taken into account as incentive or disincentive.

For many people the clinching argument in favour of increasing tax thresholds is that it "takes more people out of the tax net." Recent experience, however, suggests that it can be far from desirable to separate large numbers of people from some fiscal responsibility for their electoral decisions. Liverpool provides a telling example in the context of local authority rates. Only about 20 per cent of the Liverpool electorate have been paying full rates, and

research at Liverpool University Centre for Urban Studies suggests that non-ratepayers and council employees - teachers, social workers, manual and non-manual employees - have shown a strongly disproportionate tendency to vote for high-spending policies.

It cannot make sense as a matter of policy to send the micro-economic and political indicators for hundreds of thousands or even millions of people out of balance by removing their interest in the level of rates or taxes.

The lesson of Liverpool is that a low tax paid by a large number is healthier and more conducive to electoral responsibility than high taxes paid by a few. The point has got across. Ministers have already accepted the need to restore a link between taxation and representation. The Fowler white paper seeks, for this reason, a small contribution to local rates from all those in receipt of housing benefit. The government's impending proposals for reform of local government finance are likely to introduce some form of visible financial link between every local resident and the cost of local services.

It would be remarkable if the Chancellor's Budget moved in the opposite direction by a big increase in tax thresholds.

The author is head of policy unit, Institute of Directors.

Diana Geddes sets the scene for a victory by the right in the March election

France girds itself for conflict at the top



Mitterrand: determined to stay in office

Chirac: forecast of an unknown option

defeat. Has not Mitterrand himself recently made clear that he is wholly responsible for the policies adopted by the Socialists since they came to power four and a half years ago? If the voters now disavow these policies, is he himself not equally disavowed?

Mitterrand replies that although he espoused Socialist policies, he is nevertheless president of all the French people. His mandate, bestowed on him in a direct vote by 51 per cent of the electorate, remains unaffected, he argues, by any mere parliamentary elections.

When the former president, Giscard d'Estaing, was confronted in 1978 by the possibility of a similar defeat of his right-wing parliamentary majority, he too indicated that he intended to stay on - but said he would withdraw from active politics and retire in stately solitude to the Chateau de Rambouillet, near Paris.

Mitterrand has no such intentions. He laughs contemptuously at suggestions that he might shut himself away in a "fortress" at Rambouillet, or in the presidential Elysee Palace. Several months ago he promised that he would not remain "inactive" as president in the event of a right-wing victory.

Since then, everyone has been trying to find out exactly what he meant.

He has recently given a few clues, but they appear contradictory. In an apparently conciliatory mood last month, he declared that he would, of course, submit to the will of the people, but added that he would "do everything possible to see that their wishes coincided with the interests of the country."

Those advocating a peaceful "cohabitation" (a word now much in vogue) after March were heartened to hear Mitterrand announce in the same interview that he naturally intended to give the new government the task of governing and that he would "respect the freedom of action of the government all the more in so far as it expresses the will of the people". Did that not mean that he would leave the right free to apply its own programme if it won a sufficiently big victory?

Yes - except that he dropped hints about certain areas where he would not be willing to compromise: human rights, foreign affairs, defence, immigration, workers' rights, the guaranteed minimum wage, social security benefits, the abolition of the death penalty.

What will happen if a right-wing parliamentary majority refuses to accept whatever prime minister Mitterrand chooses after March? Mitterrand will have to resign or else dissolve parliament and call new elections.

Under the Fifth Republic, France has had a presidential, rather than a parliamentary, regime. But that is more a result of the late General de Gaulle's interpretation of the constitution than of what is laid down in the constitution itself.

Until now, it has usually been the president who has initiated new laws, taken decisions and laid down policy. The government and parliament have often acted simply as a rubber stamp, although Article 20 of the constitution stipulates that it is up to the prime minister "to determine and conduct the policy of the nation", the president being responsible simply for the "regular functioning" of the government.

The president does have significant powers, however. For a start, he appoints the prime minister and other ministers and presides over cabinet meetings. He is also commander-in-chief and presides over national defence committees. He is responsible for negotiating and ratifying treaties and must be kept informed of any international agreement not requiring ratification.

He can refuse to give his signature to new laws, can ask parliament to re-examine laws he does not like and can address messages to parliament. He can refuse to approve appointments to top civil service and military posts. He is the arbiter in any dispute between the president and parliament and can take "exceptional measures" if he considers the institutions or integrity of the nation to be in grave danger.

But note the prime minister's powers. He cannot be removed unless he tenders his government's resignation. Besides determining and conducting "the policies of the nation", he is "responsible for national defence and appoints top civil servants and military officers. His countersignature is required for the ratification of treaties and the accreditation of ambassadors. He must be consulted before parliament is dissolved. There is clearly room for conflict with a hostile president.

As Raymond Barre, who was prime minister under Giscard d'Estaing, recently the founding fathers of the Fifth Republic evidently intended that the president and his prime minister should form a couple. If the machine of state is to function smoothly, they need to do more than simply cohabit. There must be a certain understanding between them.

The next two years are going to be dramatic," one leading right-wing deputy told me. "Many politicians are going to love it, but it's going to be terrible for France. It could lead to violence in the streets."

Soviet suitor for US Asian allies

Singapore. The Soviet Union is engaged in a diplomatic offensive in South-East Asia. During the past few months the deputy prime minister, Yakov Ryabov, has visited Jakarta and Kuala Lumpur, and a high-ranking trade mission has gone to Bangkok. Now Malaysia's prime minister, Datuk Seri Mahathir Mohamad, President Suharto of Indonesia have been invited to Moscow.

They will be following Mrs Imelda Marcos, first lady of the Philippines, who went there in the autumn after the Soviet ambassador in Manila pinned a bravery medal on the chest of President Marcos in rather belated recognition of his war record as an anti-Japanese partisan.

That there has been a shift in Kremlin policy is not in doubt. The April plenum of the Soviet Communist Party's central committee decided that more attention should be paid to relations with Asian countries.

The aim of the new policy is to generate "more active and more productive" relations with the six countries of the Association of South-East Asian Nations (Asean) and the Pacific Rim generally. Hence the moves to improve relations with China, the latest initiative in Asean and the forthcoming trip of the Soviet foreign minister, Eduard Shevardnadze, to Tokyo this month.

It is officially argued that this strategic switch is no more than an overdue recognition that Moscow had become almost obsessive in its attention to Europe and the United States, to the detriment of relations with Asia; and because the Soviet Union is an Asian as well as a European nation, with a Pacific seaboard, it makes sense to pursue a

policy of economic and political renewal.

The timing may have been fortuitous, following as it does Mikhail Gorbachev's accession to power, but it could hardly have been better. The economies of the Asean nations are feeling the pinch, buffeted by the fall in world prices for their commodities and by the rise of protectionist measures against their manufactured goods.

It is an opportunity too good to be missed. Accordingly, the high-powered Soviet visitors have been offering trade and aid in their tour of Asean capitals, and the process will be continued and intensified.

To the Philippines, the Russians took much-needed business for the country's ship repair yards and co-operation in fishing and processing marine products. There was also a vague promise of financial support and a visit by a Larvian dance troupe.

The Soviet ambassador, looking hot and uncomfortable, appeared at a televised press conference at Manila airport to welcome home Mrs Marcos, and there was much talk of the first lady "playing the Soviet card" against Washington, whose pursuit for economic, military and social reforms is becoming increasingly irksome to the Marcos regime. Certainly, the Soviet promise not to intervene in domestic Filipino affairs - and in particular to withhold aid from the communist insurgents - was contrasted sharply with US "meddling".

In Bangkok, meanwhile, the Soviet commerce minister, Vashenko Ivanovich (the latest in a long line of visitors), promised to buy more of the Thai textiles excluded by quotas from the US. Once again the American diplomatic loss was the Kremlin's gain.

Squadron Leader Prasong Soonsiri, secretary general of the National Security Council, warned that Russia was seeking to exploit the troubled economic situation in Asean by "trying to divide us and create conflicts".

In Jakarta, the Soviet deputy prime minister posed, champagne glass in hand, for the cameras in the Hall of the Pancasila (Indonesia's state ideology) to sign a new trade agreement with the Suharto regime. Moscow wants more barter trade, and also offered a \$180 million loan to build three hospitals. The cash-strapped Indonesians rejected the offer, not because it was "Moscow gold" but because they are looking for rock-bottom interest rates, and there are obviously limits beyond which the Soviet commercial offensive will not go. It is certainly not trade at any price.

In Kuala Lumpur, Moscow pursued the same tack, pressing more the value of the Soviet market, with which Malaysia has a substantial favourable trading balance, at a time when the Mahathir government is being compelled to revise its forecasts of economic growth because of the fall in the price of its tin, oil and rubber exports.

The message carried to the key Asean capitals was clear and consistent: "We want to trade and improve relations. Let us concentrate on what we have in common rather than the things that divide us. The fact that we have radically different political systems should not be a bar to bilateral development." The initiative has been described by an analyst at the Institute of South-East Asian Studies in Singapore as "a strategy of economic posturing".

"The Soviet Union has long been viewed by Asean as a bogeyman - a

perception that is not likely to change for the foreseeable future," the analyst argues. "What has changed in tandem with the economic realities, however, is the approach of the Asean states of the Soviet Union as an economic power in its own right."

But, in return for cushioning the effects of the present recession throughout the Asean region, "the Soviet Union hopes that in time it will be able to wield its influence in the Asean states, perhaps more importantly, it will also be in a position to undercut the economic and strategic values of Asean to the US (or vice versa) and the utility of the regional grouping to an industrializing China."

Other analysts may regard that assessment as too crude. Moscow has other compelling interests in the region - notably Indochina, where its economic prop to Vietnam costs up to \$1,000 million a year - and these have to be counter-balanced to the economic offensive in Asean.

In the long run, Moscow would like to see closer relationships between the communist states of Indochina and their Asean neighbours, but it refuses to press Hanoi into an earlier-than-planned withdrawal of its occupying forces from Kampuchea that might hasten such a rapprochement.

The hope that can safely be ventured is that Moscow has now recognized the importance of South-East Asia, which will have a population exceeding 350 million by the turn of the century, both as a market and an area where burgeoning suspicions need to be allayed. If the peoples of the region cannot be made to love the bear, at least they can learn to live with it.

Paul Routledge

Norman Podhoretz

Dynasty needing a stronger cast

New York. Senator Edward Kennedy's withdrawal from the 1986 presidential race is sad news for Kennedy-watchers - and who in America is not one? - but they need not despair. Two of the younger Kennedys are setting out on political careers of their own.

One reason for Edward Kennedy's decision was in fact a fear that his involvement in a presidential campaign might have created difficulties for his nephew, Joseph P. Kennedy II, and his niece, Kathleen Kennedy-Townsend, who are running for Congress.

These newcomers are only the third generation of Kennedys, in biological terms, to enter American politics. In political terms, however, they represent a fifth generation of Kennedys on the national scene.

The first Joseph P. Kennedy (who never ran for anything but was appointed to a number of important posts) was so much a member of the isolationist generation of the 1920s and 1930s that he did everything he could to prevent the United States from going to war, even against Hitler and on the side of Britain.

His son John F. Kennedy, on the other hand, was so much a member of the postwar interventionist generation that in his inaugural address as president he promised to "support any friend, oppose any foe, to assure the survival and the success of liberty".

His brother Robert at first took the same line. As attorney-general in the Kennedy administration, he fervently supported American intervention in Vietnam. By 1968, however, Robert Kennedy had moved so far away from his assassinated brother's position that he was now competing with Eugene McCarthy in the Democratic presidential primaries for the favour of the anti-war movement and was also becoming a hero to the black community.

While claiming John Kennedy's heritage, Robert Kennedy in fact identified himself with a new generation of Democrats who were openly repudiating that heritage. After he too was assassinated, the torch passed to the youngest member of the second biological generation, Edward, who has been more faithful to the latter-day political legacy of Robert than Robert himself was to the legacy of John.

Yet the kind of liberalism for which Edward Kennedy has become the leading spokesman is even further to the left of the ideas and values of John F. Kennedy's administration than Robert Kennedy's was in the end. In that sense, Edward, although biologically part of the second generation of Kennedys, politically represents the fourth.

It is still much too early to say how the new generation represented by Robert's children, Joseph and Kathleen, will position itself in relation to this complicated family heritage. But it is not too early to say

that the excitement created by Joseph's candidacy for Tip O'Neill's soon-to-be-vacated congressional seat in Massachusetts demonstrates that America's obsession with the Kennedys has not exhausted itself.

Nor is it too early to say that this obsession does Americans very little credit.

American history is full of political dynasties: the Adamsses, the Lodges, the Longs. Today there are many scions of such families active in political life: Christopher Dodd, Jerry Brown, Jay Rockefeller. There is even a young Roosevelt competing with Joseph Kennedy in the Democratic primary race for Tip O'Neill's seat. Yet only the Kennedy name seems enough in itself to qualify anyone who bears it for a political career.

It is not that the Kennedys are so extraordinarily gifted, as was so notably the case with the Adams



Joseph P. Kennedy, founder of the political clan, and his namesake grandson for whom the Kennedy name alone is a passport to politics

family. On the contrary, there is not a single Kennedy, including the one who became president, who remotely compares in intellectual stature with John Adams (America's second president), or his son John Quincy Adams (sixth president), or his son Charles Francis Adams, who served with infinitely greater distinction as Lincoln's ambassador to Britain than the first Joseph P. Kennedy later did as Franklin Roosevelt's.

As for moral integrity, those members of the Adams family who had it (almost to a fault) went into politics. Those who did not (and there were more than a few) stayed away from politics altogether. The hero of Chappaquiddick, by individual contrast, is still a prominent figure in our political life.

And now we have his nephew, Joseph P. Kennedy II, who about five years after Chappaquiddick also cracked up a car, leaving one of his passengers, a young woman, paralyzed, while he himself escaped with a suspended driver's licence.

Here, then, is more good news for Kennedy-watchers. But for Americans, it is bad news, a sign of the debasement of our standards in such matters, that we still regard the mere possession of the Kennedy name, quite apart from the character or quality of the person bearing it, as an automatic entitlement to serious political consideration.

moreover... Miles Kingston

When moaning is not enough

One of my outstanding memories of 1985 is the sight of diners in a restaurant rising in near mutiny against the standard of cooking. It is a sight I had never thought to see in Britain and don't suppose I will see again, as the British do not like to complain about food. We are, in fact, looked down on by Continental Italians for not complaining; an eminent Italian restaurateur once told me that the only method of protest we had was not coming back again, so the poor restaurant owner, never found out what he was doing wrong. Complaint! he told me.

There is a school of thought which says that we don't complain because we don't know there is anything wrong with the food. Jonathan Green has just put out a sparkling anthology of writing about food and drink (*Consuming Passion, Sphere*) in which an American, Waverley Root, is quoted as follows: "Every country possesses, it seems, the sort of cuisine it deserves... I used to think that the notoriously bad cooking of the English was an example to the contrary, and that the English cook the way they do because, through sheer technical deficiency, they had been able to master the art of cooking. I have discovered to my stupefaction that the English cook that way because that is the way they like it."

In answer to criticisms like these (which contain a large ration of truth), it is normal to point out that things have got a lot better recently, that Elizabeth David created a middle-class revolution in cooking that brilliant young English chefs are springing up all over the place and so on. The sort of cooking Waverley Root is talking about, we are given to understand, is confined to roadside cafes and official banquets. Yet the restaurant in which I witnessed this near mutiny was a very posh, nouvelle-influenced restaurant in an old town house in a northern cathedral city, the menu was freely sprinkled with words like mousseline and veloute, which shows the chef had certainly read the right books.

I started off with a platter of smoked fish (has anyone ever heard anyone saying the word "platter" in real life?) which was fine. My friend had a special chef's salad, which was terrible, smothered in tomatoey salad cream. She followed it with venison, which was lumpy and disagreeable. I followed it with rack of lamb, which was rotten. I mean literally rotten - the meat had gone off and the cooking and sauce could not disguise the small of putrefaction. It was so bad that even the

head waiter had to agree that it was off. Profusely apologetic, he promised to replace it with *etc etc*.

Five minutes later I noticed that two women dining by themselves at the next table were also expostulating to the waiter. I leant over and asked them if they had had an unfortunate meal.

"Unfortunately," said one, "it's been terrible. What they served us hardly resembled the description on the menu. I'm asking for my bill to be reduced by half. And the couple who have just gone out, they actually left without paying."

There was only one other couple still eating, an elderly industrialist and his mistress. (Their loud conversation had left no doubt on this score.) One of the women called over to ask them if they were enjoying their meal.

"My chicken's lovely," said the mistress, startled.

"You're eating veal, dear," said her companion. We discounted them as serious witnesses and went back to the enjoyable task of complaining about the food, which was something of a novel experience for us. Because the truth is that the British are very good at grumbling, and very bad at complaining. We whinge and moan and grumble without ourselves, but we simply won't go to the management and complain. How often have you sat in a cinema watching a film which was slightly out of focus, or slightly inaudible, or suffering from bad reel changes? And how often has anyone gone to find the manager to complain? How often have we found a train withdrawn, or a buffet service withdrawn from a train, and actually written to complain about their lives grumbling at bus stops, waiting for buses that came four or a time very occasionally, without once writing to complain about it?

Well, having tried complaining, if only in a restaurant, I can recommend it. Not only does it bring results, you get to meet new people. We got quite friendly with the two women at the next table, who are from Glasgow, we're going to Glasgow ourselves this year, so we swapped telephone numbers and promised to keep in touch... If we had had a decent meal at the restaurant and had nothing to complain about, would never have made their acquaintance. So this year I'm giving up grumbling and taking up complaining. Think of all those new people I'm going to meet and the fun I'm going to have. It might even raise standards a bit.

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JOTTINGS FOR SIR GEOFFREY

The New Year. The Year of the Twelve. Britain's presidency of the Council of Ministers. How much longer for Helmut Kohl? The West German election is only a year away. Yet their economy looks good. (So does ours, with luck.) Mitterrand needs more than luck. Nakasone wants a third term. Don't we all?

The Year of the Tiger. Botha is riding one, Marcos, too. What was that phrase about the bear's teeth? The purge goes on at the Politburo. How tough will Gorbachev be at the next summit? Next summit - already?

Thus, perhaps, run the seasonal jottings of Her Majesty's Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, Sir Geoffrey Howe. Some of his colleagues have doubtless spent the holiday in a political slumber, others in plots and subterfuge, but of Sir Geoffrey's Cabinet surely Sir Geoffrey is giving himself space to reflect on the months to come. Here are some more marks for the scratching-pad.

After Geneva, there is hope. Not some pop-eyed hope that the landscape of international relations and within it Soviet policy have changed, but the hope that East-West relations can be stabilized.

The Russians and Americans meet in the second half of the year, probably in the United States. Mr Gorbachev has inaugurated the first year of a new Soviet five-year plan, embodying his ambition of reviving a sluggish economy. He wants, but will not get, productivity increases. He is under mounting domestic pressure to return from the United States with American concessions on arms control much more favourable than those he brought back from Geneva. The Soviet public relations machine is gearing up again; it will be in full swing when Mr Gorbachev visits Italy, probably in March. But the summit could display a hard man.

After Geneva the East European capitals rattled with diplomacy and the noise goes on. Kadar of Hungary comes here soon. Soviet economic reform might push along change in East Germany - its party congress is scheduled for March. Perhaps the Soviets will show a green light for further commercial liberalization in Hungary. Maybe not. Mr Gorbachev will not want to loosen too many strings at once.

In Jaruzelski's Poland prospects are bleak; the signs from the new prime minister are of retrograde re-centralization. The country's fragile outward stability is likely to last. So will the biggest and best-organized opposition anywhere in the Soviet bloc. A quarter of the population refuses to be "normalized". (Sir Geoffrey met some of them during his tightrope-walking visit to Warsaw last year.)

In West Germany a general election is due in early 1987. Chancellor Kohl's position is strong, despite Heren Genscher and Strauss. His reputation is strained by last year's embarrassing Bitburg visit; he will be advised to steer clear of foreign affairs. Emphasis will be put on German economic performance which, summed up in one word, is impressive. Despite that, Kohl's SPD opponent Johannes Rau will not change the subject since he is even more at sea than the Chancellor once he steps outside West German affairs.

In Brussels Sir Geoffrey goes in the summer to the head of the table. Holland takes the presidency of the Council for the first six months. Britain succeeds. This is the year in which Spain's and Portugal's accession has raised the population of the EEC member states to 320 million, greater than that of either super

power. With France and West Germany distracted it must be counted a year of British opportunity. Sir Geoffrey has work at Mrs Thatcher's behest in continuing the cleansing of the European household and on his own account in Euro-diplomacy. Early memos to Signor Craxi and President Papandreu are in order: no single issue bulks larger for the European states severally and collectively than protection against terrorism.

The pursuit and punishment of the terrorist will have to be traded off against the Middle East peace process, in which this year King Hussein must be the central figure. He has the capacity to bring about a rapprochement between President Assad and Yasser Arafat. But after last year's debacle on the steps of the Foreign Office, British caution is advisable. Divisions within the Palestinians are rift. A new danger to British and Western interests could arise in Cairo where discontent grows at President Mubarak's relations with both Israel and the United States.

For Sir Geoffrey later in the spring there may be a trip to India. Rajiv Gandhi's honeymoon with the people of India is at an end. In Bangladesh and Pakistan governments are attempting the restoration of democratic rule. President Jayawardene of Sri Lanka faces the strain of filling tourism and tea revenues.

At the end of this month President Botha speaks at the opening of South Africa's new three-chamber parliament. Some modification of the apartheid laws is expected, but he is unlikely to announce any dismantling of the system. No fresh dialogue with the African National Congress is in prospect. Without such movement, Britain and the United States face intensified pressure for economic measures not least from within the Commonwealth. International trade would not suffer as a result.

In Tokyo the Japanese are at last aware of pressure for refutation, to help provide an engine of world trade expansion. Which wheel of the locomotive will be British-made? The conduct of foreign policy cannot be insulated entirely - nor indeed can the reputation of the Foreign Secretary - from the success of the Government's domestic economic policies.

These are, after all, the same policies he helped shape as Chancellor of the Exchequer. And 1986 will be the year when advocates of "supply side" liberalization will be put to the test. This may be the last full year before a general election. It will also be a year of enormous upheaval in financial services: the City's spirit of enterprise and innovation will be tested against public suspicion of new corruption. Yet the regulatory changes will not be allowed to overheat the economy. The economy is refusing to swing into an old fashioned boom or bust cycle. Growth is likely to cling on modestly - a fact which Sir Geoffrey may find hard to explain to colleagues from Europe, Japan and the United States when the talk is of locomotives and engines.

A final jotting. If economic policy succeeds and the delayed harvest of reduced unemployment is finally reaped from an economic recovery that is now all of five years old then Sir Geoffrey will sing Te Deum with the rest of his colleagues. Yet if it fails, who is to blame the Foreign Secretary? It takes a national disaster such as events in the South Atlantic in 1982 to jeopardize his office. Sir Geoffrey's jotting-pad gives him grounds for new year satisfaction.

Key questions on Westland's future

From Mr Julian Amery, MP for Brighton Pavilion (Conservative)

Sir, Though a strong supporter of the Government's general philosophy of relying on market forces to determine Britain's economic development, I wonder how far this can be safely applied to our defence industries.

These, it is true, are mainly privately owned and benefit from some purely commercial markets at home and abroad. Their national significance, however, and their survival, depend on their having the technology and the capacity to meet the operational requirements of our defence forces. These requirements are dictated not by commercial considerations but by the political assessment of the threat we may have to meet.

Twenty years ago Britain's aerospace industries still had the technology and the capacity to meet all our operational requirements. The Wilson Government's decision, taken in 1964, to cancel the TSR2, the P1154, the HS 681 and the Black Knight rocket, and to buy American off the shelf, instead destroyed much of that capacity and technology for ever. Yet some of the ground lost has since been recovered by joint ventures with European partners such as the Jaguar, the Tornado, the Lynx and other helicopters, and now, the next generation fighter aircraft. Without these joint ventures our aerospace technology, already greatly weakened after 1964, would have faded out altogether.

Where Westland's future is concerned, three questions have to be addressed:

1. Do we want to preserve a helicopter technology in Britain?
2. Since a purely national solution appears to be beyond our means, which of the rival proposals - American or European - will better enable Westland to meet our operational requirements now and in the future?
3. Where does the balance of advantage lie between encouraging European defence procurement and gaining access to American technology?

I have been too long away from responsibility for defence procurement to venture answers to these questions. I would, however, submit that they are essentially political and strategic but only marginally commercial questions.

It is reasonable to leave the answer solely to the board and shareholders of Westland? Do they not call for political decisions and for clear guidance from the Government to the company?

Yours faithfully,
JULIAN AMERY,
12 Eaton Square, SW1,
December 31.

Nuclear waste disposal

From Dr R. Russell Jones

Sir, The comparison made by Dr J. Russell (December 20) between public exposure to ionizing radiation from nuclear discharges (120 man-Sieverts/annum) and diagnostic radiography (12,000 man-Sv/annum) is misleading for several reasons.

Women are not X-rayed during pregnancy because the fetus is known to be exceptionally sensitive to ionizing radiation. Yet the only method of protecting the fetus from nuclear discharges is to reduce the discharges themselves.

Second, nuclear discharges are concentrated in certain geographical areas, where they can double the total exposure of critical groups within the local population. Around Sellafield, for example, children may receive 1,000 times more exposure as a result of the plant's activities than children in other parts of the UK.

Third, radio-isotopes used in diagnostic radiography are generally short-lived, whereas the half-life of the radio-nuclides in nuclear waste may be thousands of years. This produces a steadily rising level of background radiation which is not included in the figure of 120 man-Sv/annum.

Finally, there is a trade-off in terms of health between diagnostic medical procedures and the associated risk. Even the National Radiological Protection Board admit that the 12,000 man-Sv received annually in the UK will result in 300 extra cancer cases per year, though the true figure is probably closer to 1,000. Both the medical profession and the nuclear industry need to recognize the risks associated with their activities.

Yours faithfully,
ROBIN RUSSELL JONES,
The Old Cottage,
Wexham Street,
Stoke Poges,
Buckinghamshire,
December 23.

From pillar to post

From Mr J. W. Fox

Sir, I have just received a letter, correctly addressed, from the office of the Leader of the Opposition. It was postmarked on December 16 at the House of Commons, on December 18 in Baintree, again in Baintree on December 20, in Rushden, Northamptonshire, on December 23 (at 5am) and finally on December 23 in Northamptonshire, but where in Northamptonshire was not specified.

I hasten to add that the Post Office is not motivated by party political bias. I once wrote to Ted Heath and received a reply which came to me via Doncaster.

Yours sincerely,
J. W. FOX,
33 Farmer's Drive,
Westfields,
Brackley,
Northamptonshire,
December 24.

Too long a wait over negligence

From Mr Michael McNair Wilson, MP for Newbury (Conservative)

Sir, A few days before Christmas you reported two cases involving medical negligence. In one (report, December 19) a 12-year-old boy was given a massive overdose of penicillin - 30 times the normal amount - when aged two. The case has taken ten years to reach its present stage. Whether it has reduced the risk of similar accidents must be anybody's guess.

In the second case (report, December 21) a young woman of 27 years was awarded record damages of over £600,000, because a routine tonsil operation went wrong and she suffered a severe brain haemorrhage. She has also had to wait ten years for her settlement, assuming the health authority does not appeal. The costs of going to law are such that her father had to give up his job for two years to qualify for legal aid.

These cases are typical of many medical negligence cases heard in the UK. On average they take seven years and usually cost hundreds of thousands of pounds. Whether they help to alleviate the occurrence of mistakes is unknown, since hospitals are reluctant to comment. Nor is it clear whether they represent the sum of medical negligence or only the cases where the likely damages make

the expense of going to law worthwhile.

This situation cries out for reform. It begs for a system which enables health and hospital authorities to admit errors with an openness and with a desire to ensure that the whole health service benefits from the steps they have taken to remedy the fault. It requires some simple method for providing compensation quickly, without massive legal costs, or the millions of pounds spent every year by doctors in insuring themselves against the risk of an action for negligence.

In New Zealand and in Sweden "no fault" compensation schemes exist and work. The two are different in scope and cost and have their critics. But they provide there is another way of compensating the victims of medical accidents other than through the courts.

Our nation, which created the welfare state, should now complete the task by introducing something similar for that small number of people who suffer misfortune while using our otherwise excellent health service.

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL MCNAIR-WILSON,
House of Commons,
December 27.

Christian names in 1985

From Mrs Margaret Brown

Sir, As in past years, I send you my annual analysis of Christian names given to children whose births were announced in *The Times* during the previous 12 months.

James, for the 22nd year in succession, retains the lead among the boys. Elizabeth was the most popular name for girls, as it has been for the past 10 years.

James	381	(1)	Elizabeth	287	(1)
Thomas	212	(2)	Louise	143	(2)
William	207	(3)	Jane	137	(3)
Michael	203	(4)	David	136	(4)
Edward	173	(5)	Charlotte	110	(5)
Charles	178	(6)	Sarah	97	(6)
John	176	(7)	Alice	94	(7)
George	131	(8)	Alexandra	88	(8)
David	125	(9)	Victoria	84	(9)
Robert	110	(10)	Emily	81	(10)

Figures in parentheses indicate the position held in 1984

George and Robert have replaced Richard and Nicholas as boys' leaders. Alice has displaced Katherine from her place among the girls. Benjamin and Frances were two names which showed increasing popularity during 1985.

The table for first names shows James once again heading the boys,

while Charlotte leads the girls, as she did in 1983, replacing Sarah.

James	192	(1)	Charlotte	79	(3)
Thomas	165	(2)	Alexandra	64	(4)
Alexander	111	(3)	Sarah	64	(1)
Edward	101	(4)	Alice	60	(13)
Charles	85	(5)	Emily	50	(9)
William	75	(6)	Emma	36	(11)
Nicholas	68	(8)	Sophie	36	(3)
Benjamin	66	(20)	Elizabeth	36	(8)
George	63	(18)	Katherine	32	(7)
Oliver	62	(9)	Louise	32	(2)

Benjamin, George, Alice and Emma replace Christopher, David, Laura and Victoria. Jennifer, Georgina and Joanna all returned higher totals in 1985.

Five thousand, four hundred and sixty-three births were announced in 1985, of which 2,772 were boys and 2,691 were girls.

The following summary shows how many names each was given:

	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th	7th	8th	9th	10th
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Boys	381	48	124	78	78	78	78	78	78	78
Girls	287	48	144	48	78	78	78	78	78	78

The number of sets of twins recorded in 1985 was 60, of whom 28 were boys, 18 were girls and 24 were mixed. There were two sets of triplets and one set of quadruplets.

Yours faithfully,
MARGARET BROWN,
19 Wiglington Terrace, York,
December 31.

Teachers' pay

From Professor Noel Entwistle

Sir, In considering the Government's attitudes towards teachers' and lecturers' pay it is important not simply to condemn the Government's overall policy in education. Its efforts to give parents more choice of school, and to involve parents in school policymaking could be beneficial, if it was part of a coherent overall policy.

Similarly the emphasis on standards, by providing certificated targets for a much larger proportion of pupils and by demanding that teachers demonstrate their effectiveness, could be welcomed.

But standards depend on the quality of learning and what pupils learn depends crucially on the quality of interactions between teachers and pupils within the classrooms. No matter what changes in curriculum or administrative procedure are introduced, it is only if these are adopted enthusiastically by teachers who feel that they are being treated fairly that the anticipated benefits will reach the pupils.

The Government is perceived by many teachers as being involved in a series of mean tricks to cheat them of reasonable pay settlements. Repeatedly, year by year, to provide

less money than is required to keep pace with inflation is their most consistent unfairness.

The most recent example of their mean tricks comes with their treatment of tenure in universities. It is not so much the new policy which is proposed as the way it is to be implemented which creates anger and resentment.

Even within the academic community there would be those who accepted that the total security provided by the current system is no longer justifiable. But to introduce the change so that lecturers who are promoted lose the tenure they currently have is an act of gross insensitivity.

The dilemma posed by gaining promotion but losing job security will cause agonies of indecision for the individuals concerned, particularly when the Government is reiterating its demand for reductions in staff.

To admit that there is a need for fresh thinking in this particular instance would not be weakness, but rationality triumphing over dogmatism.

Yours faithfully,
NOEL ENTWISTLE,
Annandale,
Crimston Hall, East Lothian,
December 14.

Threat to dairy farms

From Mr John H. Anderson

Sir, The proposed EEC scheme to buy out farmers' milk quota for very substantial sums in a new effort to reduce milk production may well have unwanted side-effects.

In the case of a tenanted farm the regulations may well provide for most or all the spoils to go to the tenant (and even more importantly) that the tenant may assist in the farm in this way without the consent of its owner. Such arrangements are supported by the NFU and the Tenant Farmers' Association.

The effect of the resulting ban on the production of milk on a farm which is of a size and is equipped only for milk production is easy to envisage. The tenant could collect his money and go. The landlord would be left with a farm incapable

any more of producing a living for its occupant. Small dairy farms, and in particular those owned by county councils, are an important feature of the farming ladder.

Unless the farming organisations can demonstrate on this occasion that they have the stature to forgo immediate gain for the sake of the well being of a landlord/tenant system they will deserve no sympathy over any breakdown of that system.

They will deserve no sympathy; but more importantly the country will lose more of its smaller family dairy farms which are such an important feature of the rural economy and social structure.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN H. ANDERSON,
Head of Estate Management,
Strutt & Parker,
13 Hill Street, W1,
December 24.

Consultants' efficiency

From the Chairman of the North Staffordshire Health Authority

Sir, It has unfortunately become fashionable to attack consultant medical staff and your issue of December 20 gave publicity to Professor Maynard's call for short, fixed-term contracts to make it easier for the NHS to dismiss consultants who are "no good".

Maynard's proposal fits neatly with recent calls for medical performance to be mechanically judged by indicators that, e.g., measure the time surgeons take for operations. We are left to assume that one by one "the slowest" surgeons will fall to obtain a renewal of their fixed-term contract.

As a non-medical chairman of a health authority concerned for the future of the NHS, I strongly reject this simplistic attempt to create penalties with which to threaten senior medical staff. It does less than justice to the efforts of consultants to maintain clinical services in the face of a demand that is growing

faster than resources and, ultimately, it will threaten the very existence of the NHS that Maynard would wish to maintain.

After graduation, future consultants as junior doctors spend 15 to 20 years working a pattern of hours that is still grossly unsocial both in quantity and timing. In every district hospital it is a busy group of senior registrars that quite literally run and manage clinical services every night and weekend.

At the end of this employment, for the successful, there is a consultant post for the last 25 years or so of working life. To threaten to replace this employment with an uncertain pattern of fixed-term contracts will not only lower morale but, more seriously, it must also cause consultants to wonder whether their commitment to the NHS is worth while.

If Maynard wants American-style contracts consultants should have the right to ask for American-style employment conditions, which include private health care and fees for item of service.

Alarming decline in research posts

From Dr P. V. E. McClintock

Sir, The recent reductions in scientific research activity pose a real danger of our losing altogether the long-term research base on which our future prosperity increasingly depends.

Most basic scientific research in this country is carried out in our universities. One alarming indicator of the problems that we now face is the catastrophic decline in the numbers of new PhDs willing to accept appointments as post-doctoral research associates (PDAs), commonly funded by the research councils.

Such people are essential to the vitality and efficient execution of scientific research programmes, being fully trained in technique and at the height of their intellectual and imaginative powers; but it has now become a common experience that even the wide (and expensive) advertisement of a PDA post in an exciting and important area of scientific endeavour may not draw any suitable applications at all.

These difficulties stem, of course, from the current under-valuation and under-funding of UK science and education, which is the reason that we can no longer offer salaries in research that are commensurate with the advanced qualifications and high calibre of person needed.

UK scientific research will atrophy if matters are just left to drift on.

Yours faithfully,
P. V. E. MCCLINTOCK,
University of Lancaster,
Department of Physics,
Lancaster,
December 12.

Special juries

From Mr J. G. D. Graham

Sir, Lately there have been complaints that common juries are incapable of following a major banking or city fraud trial because of the length and complexity thereof. There are now suggestions that juries should be dispensed with and that trial in such cases should take place by judge alone.

Until 1971, when the Courts Act 1971 abolished them, there was a possibility of empaneling a special jury which was defined as being persons of a certain station in society such as bankers, merchants or "esquires". I can see why, in this levelling age, it should have been disliked.

However, the last and most useful outpost of the special jury system was "City of London special jury". In the age of complex frauds, which depend upon the use of a series of elaborate steps, such a jury would be much more difficult to bamboozle than a common jury made up of ordinary citizens of no expertise.

This is especially so when the strongest objection to the present system is that a jury can be effectively packed by objecting to anybody who looks as though they might be either well informed or intelligent.

Perhaps the answer to the present problem, therefore, is the reintroduction of the right to appoint at least a City of London special jury for special cases involving technical knowledge. After all, the right to "trial by one's peers" was always regarded as part of the rights of an Englishman and dates from Magna Carta at least. A trial where the jury has not the capacity to absorb the case is not a trial at all.

The alternative of trial by judge alone has already damaged the English civil courts by limiting damages and would be destructive of our liberties if introduced in criminal cases in the crown courts.

Yours faithfully,
J. G. D. GRAHAM,
J. G. D. Graham & Co, Solicitors,
415 Fulham Road,
Chelsea, SW10,
December 11.

Passing the buck

From Mr Brendan J. Ward

Sir, May I commend to your readers a practice I have indulged in for the past year?

On receipt of two or more sets of unsolicited advertising material containing reply paid envelopes, transfer the literature of one advertiser to the envelope of another and return each to the other.

The pros and cons of this practice are arguable. The satisfaction of inflicting junk mail on the perpetrators at no cost to oneself is undeniable.

Yours faithfully,
BRENDAN J. WARD,
Aquila Way,
Cariuke,
Lanarkshire,
December 18.

ON THIS DAY

JANUARY 2 1986

An Act to provide for Old Age Pensions was passed on August 1, 1908, coming into force on January 1, 1908. It provided for a pension to every man or woman of the age of 70 and whose yearly means did not exceed £31 10s. The pension varied in amount from one shilling weekly to five shillings. During the first week 501,383 pensions were paid.

OLD-AGE PENSIONS.

THE FIRST PAYMENTS.

The Old-Age Pensions Act came into force yesterday, and pensions were paid to duly-qualified recipients in all parts of the United Kingdom.

So much has been said and written about the inauguration of the Act that the aged poor entitled to benefit by its provisions were fully informed as to how to take advantage of it, and the payments were made, as a rule, without difficulty or inconvenience either to the public or to the general business and administration of the Post Office. In many cases, the claimants were early at the offices at which they were to receive their pensions, and in some instances they waited at the doors until they were opened for business. In many districts, however, the claimants were not so early, and the queues were long. At 10.30 a.m. to pay more than 25 persons. At 11 a.m. an incident is reported from Bishop's Cleeve, where a man of 75, who had served 25 years in the Army, died after signing his pension paper in the post office. It was a matter of remark in a considerable number of localities that the pensioners had not appeared in such large numbers as might have been expected. This was no doubt due, in part, to the age of the recipients, and to the damp and foggy weather prevailing yesterday. Many pensioners who had been waiting for their vouchers for payment, as may be convenient to them.

Mr. Burns, the President of the Local Government Board, yesterday morning made a tour of inspection of several post-offices in London, and having seen that the Act was working satisfactorily, afterwards proceeded to his office in Whitehall.

LONDON.

The first applicant at the General Post Office was Mr. William John Inett, who, looking hale and hearty, put in an appearance at the post office counter shortly before half-past 8, and was congratulated by the clerk on being the first recipient of the Act. Mr. Inett has lived in the City all his life. At the Ludgate-hill post-office, a venerable old couple, both of whom were nearly 80, were the first to receive their pensions. Each produced the "cheque book", and the signatures of the husband and wife. Mr. Inett was handed to the husband and the same sum to the old woman. "Here, less," said the man, as he handed over the money, "you be cashier; put it in your purse." The couple received hearty congratulations from a number of persons in the office as well as smiling faces, they walked out.

A Crimean veteran in his 77th year, George Hibbard, of Gascoyne-avenue, Kilburn, was the first applicant for pension money at the post-office in High-road, Kilburn. He walked in on the stroke of 10, wearing two Crimean medals, English and Turkish, and appeared to be pleased to know he was the first to put in an appearance. He received the two half-crowns smilingly. Hibbard, who for two years has enjoyed a naval pension, mentioned in conversation that his first voyage was in the Trafalgar and the second in the Meteor, one of the first four ironclads built for the British Navy. One old man at Wimbledon was desirous of drawing four weeks in advance, and it took a good deal of explanation to convince him that his application could not be entertained. One of the pensioners who drew his money at Kingston yesterday was an old man of 74, who for years has had his coffin standing in his house so that the parish might not bury him when he died.

Keeping churches alive

From Mr J. D. C. Harte

Sir, The Editor of *New Fire* writes (December 18) that "if people want their parish churches then they must pay for them in full. If dioceses want their cathedrals, then they, too, must pay".

</

COURT AND SOCIAL

SOCIAL NEWS

The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh will pay a state visit to China from October 12 to 18.

The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh will visit Hong Kong from October 21 to 23.

Princess Anne, President of the Save the Children Fund, will visit the Milestone Intermediate Treatment Project in Sunderland on February 21 and later will visit Glenhew School, Saltburn-by-the-Sea, Cleveland.

The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh will visit New Zealand from February 22 to March 2.

Princess Anne, President of the Save the Children Fund, will attend a performance of *Messiah* at the Albert Hall on February 23.

Princess Anne will open the British Equestrian Trade Association Trade Fair at Sandown Park Racecourse on February 24.

Princess Anne will address the annual convention of the Institute of Directors at the Albert Hall on February 25 and later, as President of the British Knitting and Clothing Export Council, will visit Planeeve NI. In the evening she will dine with the Chatham Dining Club at St Ermin's Hotel.

The Duke of Kent, as president, will attend the RAF Benevolent Fund anniversary concert at the Festival Hall, on April 11.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr J. P. A. Black and Miss J. C. Chisholm-Batten
The engagement is announced between Paul, elder son of Mr and Mrs J. P. A. Black, of Deas, Cuckfield, West Sussex, and Juliet, younger daughter of Dr W. R. Chisholm-Batten, of Barbours, Wiltshire, and of Mrs E. M. W. Harris, of West Common, Haywards Heath, West Sussex.

Lieutenant R. L. Bourne, RN and Miss O. E. Lawson-Tancred
The engagement is announced between Richard, son of Mr L. R. T. Bourne, and the late Mrs R. Bourne, and the late Mrs R. Bourne, daughter of the Rev C. and Mrs Lawson-Tancred, of London.

Mr S. C. Bownfield and Mrs A. M. Fitty
The engagement is announced between Simon, eldest son of Mr and Mrs F. B. Bownfield, of Redborough Common, Gloucestershire, and Amanda Mary, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs A. E. Fitty, of Farnham, Surrey.

Mr R. J. H. Catlin and Miss C. J. Johnson
The engagement is announced between Robin, younger son of Mr and Mrs D. H. Catlin, of Gerrards Cross, Berkshire, and Christine, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs J. M. Johnson, of Farnham, Surrey.

Mr T. A. Clarence-Smith and Miss S. C. Bess
The engagement is announced between Thomas, eldest son of Mr and Mrs K. Clarence-Smith, of Holly Grove, Neashead, Norfolk, and Stephanie, daughter of Mr and Mrs M. R. Bess, of Greenfield, Long Acre Road, Carmarthen, Dyfed.

Mr D. G. Coleman and Miss C. G. Banach-Brunett
The engagement is announced between David, elder son of Mr and Mrs D. G. Coleman, and Catherine, daughter of Mr and Mrs Banach-Brunett, of London.

Mr J. P. A. Downward and Miss N. P. G. Seraphina
The engagement is announced between Jeremy, elder son of Major-General Peter Downward, of London, and the late Mrs Hilda Downward, and the late Mrs Hilda Downward, daughter of Mr and Mrs George Seraphina, of London and Cyprus.

Mr C. S. Moore and Miss J. E. Faber
The marriage took place on Saturday, December 28, at St Peter's Church, Winchester, of Mr Christopher S. Moore, elder son of Mr Joseph Moore and Mrs Mary Moore, of London, and Miss Julia Talbot-Rice, daughter of Mr and Mrs T. H. Faber, of Wootton Bassett, near Salisbury, Wiltshire, and the late Mrs Hilda Downward, daughter of Mr and Mrs George Seraphina, of London and Cyprus.

Alice Otley School
Miss Eileen Millett has retired after 21 years as Headmistress of The Alice Otley School, Worcester. She is succeeded by Miss Christine Sibbit, formerly Deputy Headmistress of the Girls' Grammar School, Tisbury, Wiltshire.

Birthdays today

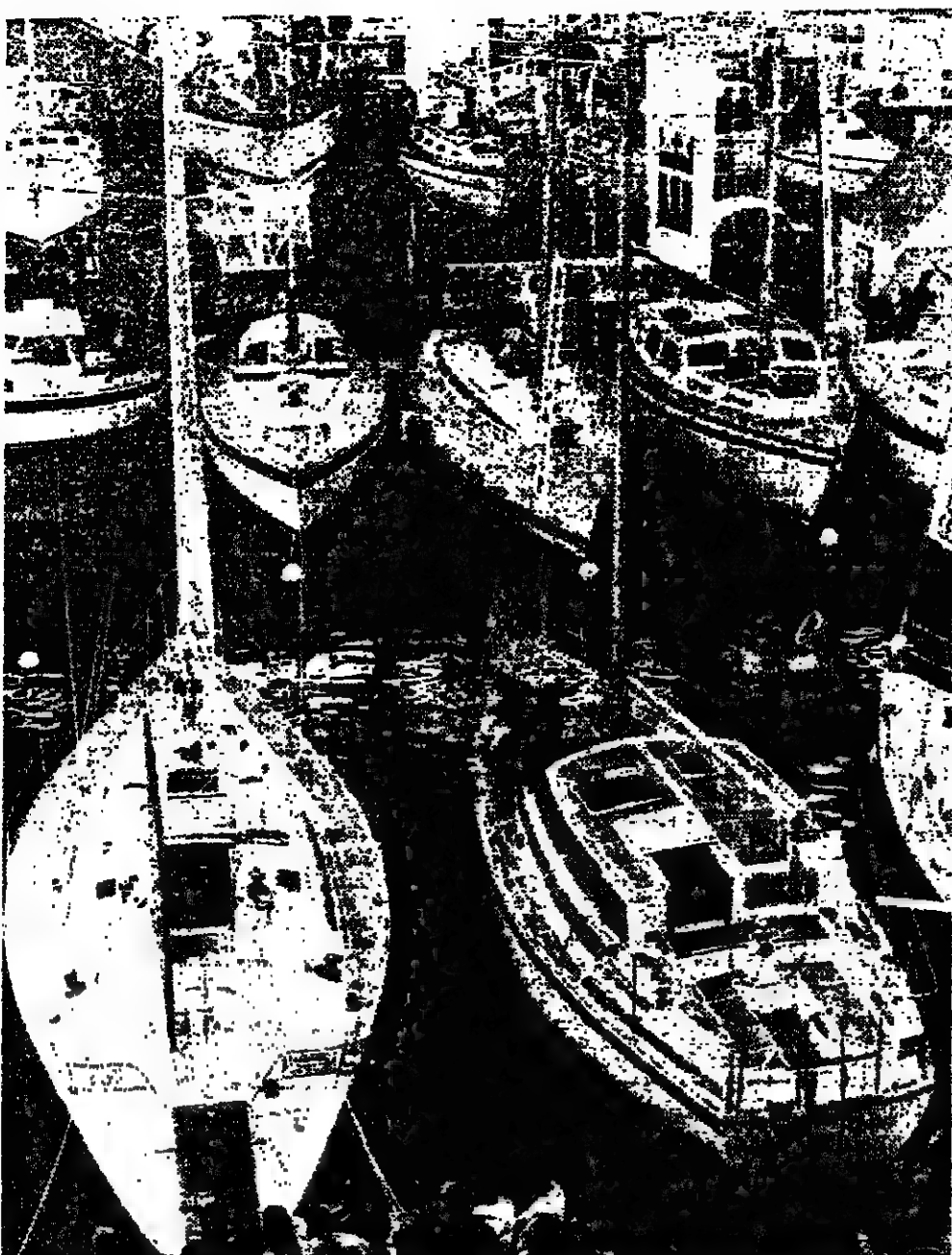
Professor Isaac Asimov, 66; Mr David Bailey, 48; the Duke of Devonshire, 66; Professor Sir Kingsley Dunham, 76; Mr Walter Harrison, MP, 65; Mr M. C. St. J. Hornby, 87; Sir Anthony Lincoln, 75; Lord Nelson of Stafford, 69; Mr Edmund de Rothschild, 70; Air Marshal Sir Ernest Sides, 73; Sir Michael Tippett, OM, CH, 81; Lord Trenchard, 72; Dr Rachel Waterhouse, 65; the Right Rev Kenneth Woolcock, 62; Sir Philip de Zurena, 61.

Development Trust for the Young Disabled

Mr H. V. White-Smith has been elected Chairman of the Development Trust for the Young Disabled in succession to Mr J. M. van Zwanenberg, who continues as a director of Willis, Fawcett & Dunlop Limited, Air Commodore D. F. Rixson is vice-chairman of the trust, and Sir Neville Leigh, formerly Clerk to the Privy Council, has become a trustee. Captain A. D. Hutton, RN, has been appointed secretary.

Latest appointments

Mr Stuart Mitchell to be Director of the North West Tourist Board. He will succeed Mr Geoffrey Hare, who becomes Chief Executive of the Scottish Tourist Board.



A general view of the marina at the show. Photograph: Peter Triemer

Crusader sets pace at show

Harold Cadmore, skipper of the British America's cup challenger for 1987, opened the thirty-second London International Boat Show at Earl's Court yesterday.

The centrepiece of the show which has attracted nearly 500 exhibitors is the British America's Cup challenger, *Crusader*, named by the Princess of Wales last month.

Crusader is one of two 12-metre class boats being built to win the America's Cup for Britain in the 1987 challenges to be held off Perth, Western Australia. Mr Cadmore, aged 41 will skipper whichever of the two craft is the quicker, after trials.

Mr Cadmore was originally to have assisted in the opening ceremony, which was to have been performed by Mr Tom Webb, the acknowledged "father" of the London Boat Show and director general of the Ship and Boat Builders' National Federation. But Mr Webb withdrew because of illness.

The show runs until January 12.

Archaeology

Vikings forged Anglo-Irish link

By Norman Hammond, Archaeology Correspondent

Study of the millions of finds made during recent excavations in Dublin are shedding new light on the origins of the city as a Viking settlement, and are showing how closely the Vikings interacted with towns in England and on the Continent.

Among the significant discoveries has been a series of weights, all of which conformed to a Carolingian standard.

The Dublin excavations were concentrated in two areas, uphill on the High Street, and down on the banks of the Liffey in an area known as Wood Quay.

The latter became highly controversial in the late 1970s, when Dublin Corporation wanted to bulldoze the site for new civic offices; dramatic protests, including an appeal to the Irish Supreme Court, eventually resulted in government funding for non-stop excavations on part of the site throughout the winters of 1980 and 1981.

The material from Wood Quay is now housed in the basement of a new building rented by the National Museum of Ireland, where more than 3,000 drawers hold "literally millions of specimens," according to Mr Patrick Wallace, who is in charge of publishing the results of the work.

While a substantial number of the finds are the quotidian remains of daily life, such as animal bones and plant remains, many more are artefacts, discarded or lost by their Viking owners.

Among the most important are more than 250 lead weights, some of them made in a decidedly *ad hoc* manner such as casting in an empty lobster claw (presumably left after one of those dinners). Most are 13 or 26 grammes, and accord with the Carolingian ounce of 26 grammes. Weights up to eight Carolingian ounces have been documented for certain, and some heavier lead objects may also be weights in this system.

Another element of the finds, and one which is not given great emphasis, is the extent of contacts with the British coastal cities. The Vikings made no pottery, and imported their vessels from places such as Chester. There were very strong ties, political as well as economic, with Jorvik, modern York, which included the provision of Viking rulers in southern England were also strong, so much so, said Mr Wallace, that there "was almost a Saxon presence" in Viking Dublin. Those ties went far beyond England, however: more than a thousand pieces of

University news

Cambridge
DARWIN COLLEGE
Clashed into honorary fellowship Mrs J. L. Frost, MA, and Mr T. C. Gurney, MA.

Dundee
The university is to award the honorary degree of doctor of laws to the following at the graduation ceremony on July 11:
Professor Patrick Forrest, regius professor of clinical surgery, Edinburgh University and Chief Scientist of the Scottish Home and Health Department; Dr Norman MacCaig, poet; Mr James Paton McPherson, Chief Executive, Wright Health Group; Brigadier Hector Guild Mearns, Director, Women's Royal Army Corps; and Mr Gordon Wilson, MP for Dundee East and Chairman of the Scottish National Party.

Leicester
Research grants worth £1,851,000 have been awarded to the university between July and October 1985, twice the value of grants received in the same period the previous year. Among those announced are:

Southside
The university holds research grants and contracts worth £15.1 million, an increase of 13.7 per cent over the previous year.

More than £7.4 million came from the Science and Engineering Research Council and other research councils. Government departments were the source of £3 million, while the EEC and other overseas bodies provided £1.3 million. Almost £2 million of the research funds came from the public and private sectors of industry and commerce.

Leicester
Research grants worth £1,851,000 have been awarded to the university between July and October 1985, twice the value of grants received in the same period the previous year. Among those announced are:

OBITUARY

SAM SPIEGEL

Hollywood producer of quality films



Sam Spiegel, producer of award-winning films like *On the Waterfront* and *The Bridge on the River Kwai*, died on December 31 on the Caribbean island of St. Martin. He was in his 80s.

Though his public image differed little from that of the conventional Hollywood impresario, flamboyant, cigar-chewing and with more than a hint of megalomania, he was an intelligent and perceptive man who was as much interested in the artistic quality of his films as their commercial appeal.

During the 1940s and 1950s he was one of the most successful of the Hollywood producers, working independently of the big studios, with an impressive list of credits. He worked closely with his actors and directors, forming particularly fruitful partnerships with John Huston and the British director, Sir David Lean, with whom he made *The Bridge on the River Kwai* and *Lawrence of Arabia*.

He was born in Jaroslavl, then in the Polish territory of the Austro-Hungarian Empire and was educated first in Poland and later in Austria where he studied at Vienna University.

He gravitated to the film industry which he entered as a story translator during a visit to Hollywood in 1927. However he returned to Europe where he joined the European section of the Universal company in Berlin.

In the late 1920s and early 1930s Universal maintained a considerable organization to produce French and German versions of its American films, to distribute European films and to seek out talent on the continent.

The experience came in useful when Spiegel went in 1930 to work with a company making French and German versions of films for distribution in Europe, and later, when he became an independent producer himself.

Spiegel left Germany in 1933 as a fugitive from Nazism and worked as a producer elsewhere in Europe before migrating to the United States in 1935. He went to Hollywood where he soon made his mark, producing as S. F. Eagle, until reverting to his own name in 1954.

His first notable Hollywood film was *Tales of Manhattan* (1942) which introduced to Hollywood the episode film, consisting of a number of separate, linked stories.

He then worked for a time as producer with the Universal company, thus renewing an old association, and was the only Hollywood producer willing to employ Orson Welles as a director after his much publicized rift with the industry over *The Magnificent Ambersons* which a film studio had reshaped without Welles's approval.

The resultant film, *The Stranger*, written and directed by, and starring, Welles, was about the hunt for an escaped Nazi criminal in a New England town.

Spiegel was gaining a reputation as Hollywood's most intelligent and cultured producer. His policy was to produce fewer but better films. Thus the select list of his films contains few failures and a number of the most interesting films to come out of Hollywood: *We Were Strangers*, with its subtle and penetrating study of the tensions among a group of Latin American rebels; *African Queen*, with its superb performances from Humphrey Bogart and Katharine Hepburn. Both were directed by John Huston and made for Horizon, the production company formed by Huston and Spiegel.

Horizon's next production in Europe, *Melba*, was less successful; but the next American production, *On the Waterfront*, achieved enormous success. Like *African Queen* it won several Academy Awards.

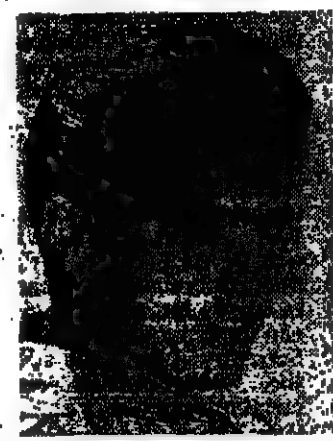
Spiegel did not enjoy the same commercial success again, though he continued to make interesting and sometimes unusual films into the 1980s. *Marlon Brando*, who had made his name in *On the Waterfront*, gave a vivid portrayal of a maverick Southern sheriff in *The Chase*, which was directed by Arthur Penn, later to make *Bonnie and Clyde*.

In 1971 Spiegel returned to the historical epic with *Nicholas and Alexandra*, an account of the last years of the Tsar and Tsarina of Russia and their murder by the Bolsheviks, but the effect was worthy rather than sparkling.

His attempt at Scott Fitzgerald's *The Last Tycoon*, despite his engaging Elia Kazan as director and Harold Pinter as writer, was a critical and commercial failure.

One of his last films was also a collaboration with Pinter, an adaptation of the latter's stage play, *Endgame*, which was made in Britain with Jeremy Irons and Ben Kingsley.

RICK NELSON



For the next few years Nelson was among the top bracket of rock 'n' roll performers but, like many of the first generation of rock stars, found himself not easily able to bend to the winds of change which swept the pop music world in the 1960s, outmoding his brand of simple sentiment and pleasant melody, and replacing it with something more abrasive, more socially aware and more musically sophisticated.

From the early 1960s onwards he was in virtual obscurity, but he re-emerged in 1972, now singing as Rick Nelson with a band, the Stone Canyon Band, performing in a completely different idiom from that of his rock 'n' roll years.

With his country-rock style, Stone Canyon Band had considerable success and Nelson himself had an individual hit with "Garden Party" in 1972.

Nelson also appeared in several films as an actor, including *Rio Bravo* with John Wayne and *The Wackiest Ship in the Army*.

His marriage to Kristin Harmon was dissolved. There were four children.

Joseph Oriolo, the cartoonist who created *Casper the friendly ghost* and directed more than 1,000 cartoons during his career, including many episodes of *Felix the cat*, died on December 23. He was 72.

Lady Braybrooke, wife of Lord Braybrooke, died on Christmas Eve. She was Angela Mary, daughter of W. H. Hollis and widow of John Lee, and she married Lord Braybrooke as his second wife in 1963.

Vice-Admiral Sir Derek Redell, the Controller of the Navy, took the salute at a passing-out parade held at the Britannia Royal Naval College, Dartmouth, on December 19, when the following officers under training passed out from the college:

Philip de Zurena, 61; Mr David Bailey, 48; the Duke of Devonshire, 66; Professor Sir Kingsley Dunham, 76; Mr Walter Harrison, MP, 65; Mr M. C. St. J. Hornby, 87; Sir Anthony Lincoln, 75; Lord Nelson of Stafford, 69; Mr Edmund de Rothschild, 70; Air Marshal Sir Ernest Sides, 73; Sir Michael Tippett, OM, CH, 81; Lord Trenchard, 72; Dr Rachel Waterhouse, 65; the Right Rev Kenneth Woolcock, 62; Sir Philip de Zurena, 61.

Dr Norman MacCaig, Dundee honour

Science report

Aerial scanner that identifies mineral deposits

By Bill Johnstone, Technology Correspondent

A radiation scanner for use in low-flying aircraft has been developed in Australia to identify and analyse mineral deposits.

Tests conducted by the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organization (CSIRO), in co-operation with mineral company, Carr Boyd Minerals, have been successful enough for the design to be considered for commercial use.

The scanner can also be used for crop monitoring, detection of soil erosion and

water pollution, and to help with fire fighting (the scanner "sees" through smoke).

A picture of the ground being surveyed is displayed in the aircraft cabin. An electro-mechanical scanner on board the aircraft measures and records the energy levels reflected and emitted from the ground.

When the aircraft is flying at a height of 2,000 metres, the unit scans a swathe four kilometres wide and processes data from that strip in 10 square metre sections.

The multispectral scanner was conceived by Dr Frank Honey while looking for an aid to geological mapping.

The prototype tests were conducted earlier this year in the Eastern Goldfields, Western Australia. A CSIRO official said: "The results were dramatic. Hitherto unknown faults and rock units were readily identified. Earlier flight tests over farming areas located unsuspected areas of salt encroachment."

The ground signals are analysed by the electronics on the aircraft and then displayed on a monitor as the aircraft flies over the area.

"From the image processing the joint research team was able to elicit the distribution of several of the minerals in the areas studied, such as kaolin, montmorillonite, carbonate, hematite, goethite and pyroxene."

"The results showed that the images obtained from the scanner provide a greatly enhanced understanding of the stratigraphy and structure of an area."

Latest wills

Latest entries include (not, before tax):

Female, Mrs Jessica Gorges, of Wiltshire, Cambridge. £306,012

Female, Mr Edward Luntley, of Henley-on-Thames, Oxfordshire. £230,000

Female, Miss Margaret Winfield, of Henley-on-Thames, Oxfordshire. £230,000

Female, Mr William Gordon, of Henley-on-Thames, Oxfordshire. £230,000

Female, Mr Reginald Hamilton, of Henley-on-Thames, Oxfordshire. £230,000

Female, Mrs Emily Dorn, of Henley-on-Thames, Oxfordshire. £230,000

Female, Mr Archibald Gordon, of Henley-on-Thames, Oxfordshire. £230,000

Female, Mr William Gordon, of Henley-on-Thames, Oxfordshire. £230,000

Female, Mr Reginald Hamilton, of Henley-on-Thames, Oxfordshire. £230,000

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9.00am - 7.00pm

- MEN**
- DAKS two-piece suits.....£180-£145
 - DAKS three-piece suits.....£220-£199
 - DAKS double-breasted blazers.....£136-£145
 - DAKS cashmere jackets.....£230-£235
 - DAKS trench raincoats.....£166-£149
 - DAKS wool trousers.....£52-£43
 - Business shirts.....£32-£24
 - International fashions.....£60-£79
 - Cashmere sweaters.....£140-£79
- WOMEN**
- DAKS Check skirts.....£86-£55
 - DAKS tweed fashion jackets.....£175-£145
 - Pringle-like-neck cashmere sweaters.....£86-£55
 - Robert-Jan polo dresses.....£105-£69
 - Rovers wool skirts.....£56-£35
 - Childrens V-neck shirts.....£17-£10
 - Italian fashion shoes.....£46-£29
 - Uniqlo & Klein coats.....£120-£69

SALE
OPEN DAILY 9.00AM-5.30PM THURSDAYS UNTIL 7PM

THE ARTS

Operetta: John Higgins relishes an Offenbach spectacular

Science-fiction pantomime brilliantly presented

Le Voyage dans la lune
Grand Théâtre, Geneva

Offenbach's *Voyage dans la lune* was devised 110 years ago as a lavish spectacular for the recently opened Gaieté in Paris. The theatre had the resources for quantities of special effects and Offenbach and his librettists were happy to provide the opportunities to use them. The operetta in four acts, which is said to have lasted over five hours, is described as a *féerie* (fairy-story), but in reality it is a science-fiction pantomime casting in on the popularity at the time of Jules Verne. *Around the World in Eighty Days* had been successfully transferred to the stage, so why not plunder another Verne text, *De la Terre à la lune*?

Geneva's Christmas production has no intention at all of being a poor cousin to what was on view a century ago. The playing time is cut to a moderate three and a half hours with a couple of short intervals - and could with advantage be cut a bit more - and the ending has been changed, but the spectacle remains the order of the day on Earth as on the Moon. It is a little cruel to Offenbach to say that the audience is sent home humming the scenery and costumes, but it is not too far from the truth.

The trip to the moon comes about because Prince Caprice, bored with life at 17, has no wish to take over his father's crown. Instead he wants the Moon and he gets it, thanks to the immense cannon (close relative to the one used in the original Gaieté production) which shoots off a space capsule containing King, Prince and the Court intellectual, Microscope, and lands them slap on target after a delicious Act 1 finale of farewell to Earth.

The space-travellers find that life exists on the Moon, mainly in the shape of green gentlemen with webbed feet and illuminated genitals, but love does not (Michel Dussarrot's fantastical costumes are a joy throughout). Women are divided into two classes, the *femmes utiles* and the *femmes de luxe* (not a concept designed to raise too many cheers around the offices of *Spare Rib*). The former scrub the floors and breed, while the latter change male hands at - where else? - the *Marché aux Femmes*. The planting of a few apple trees changes all that: they bear the fruits of love, including a romance between the Prince and the Moon



Julius Bastin shakily seated as Cosmos; and love burgeoning between Joseph Evans (Caprice) and the dazzling Marie McLaughlin (Fantasia)

Princess Fantasia, which is almost

egged on by a Garden of Eden serpent straight from *Die Zauberflöte*. Offenbach kept his travellers on the Moon. Geneva's producer, Jérôme Savary, sends them back to Earth accompanied by a number of selected Moonies, so that the space-ship crashes through the roof of the Opéra Comique to reveal an improbable view of the Eiffel Tower ("Vite! Vite! On sont les magazines"). The evening ends with a massive can-can led by Microscope's all too earthly mistress, Cascadine, in which there is not a Star War in sight.

Savary's guiding hand in all this is unwavering. He and Offenbach are natural bedfellows in their love of mockery. Bellini, Donizetti and Wagner all get their comeuppance - in their delight in bawdiness and in their exuberance. The production, with occasional hiatuses of spoken dialogue which should be trimmed, is a *perpetuum mobile* which demands

that the eye flashes from side to side of the stage as fast as at Wimbledon's Centre Court.

The overture begins familiarly with the phrase that Offenbach was later to work for Dapertutto's "Scintille, diamant" in *Hoffman*. Thereafter the best of the score comes in the ballets, especially the *Ballet des Flocons* on the Moon's chilly surface, which Manuel Rosenthal was to use in another dance score, *La Gaieté parisienne*. Marc Soustrot could have got cleaner attack from the Geneva Orchestra but he lacked nothing in high spirits.

One of the vocal writing is a bit perfunctory, with characters merely telling the audience who they are in words that almost form their own rhythms, such as the King's opening song:

"Vlan, Vlan, je suis Vlan
C'est moi le roi Vlan."
The best numbers go to the

Princess Fantasia and in Marie McLaughlin, the Scottish soprano, Geneva have by far the best singer on stage. Miss McLaughlin looks gorgeous, she has always been an actress of great accomplishment and the Act II bolero especially was pipped out with dazzling ease. The temporarily bored Prince Caprice, near relative to that other weary Prince in Prokofiev's *Love for Three Oranges*, was written for a mezzo, Offenbach's very close friend Zulma Bouffar, and it would have been much in the pantomime spirit if Geneva had kept to the idea of a principal boy. They chose, however, to engage the American tenor Joseph Evans, who looked well enough but whose voice sounded pinched at the top early on in the evening. He is a singer in the John Aler mould, but without Aler's ingratiating tone.

Native French-speakers took most of the other twenty or so parts, led by Christian Asse as the resourceful

Microscope and Michel Trépoint as Vlan of the egotistical aria. Jules Bastin was somewhat below form as Cosmos, King of the Moon, and allowed himself to be upstaged by Michel Dussarrot, who, not content with designing several hundred costumes, turns up as the King's acolyte, Cactus. Monique Barscha cuts a massive figure as the leader of the *femmes utiles*; if Geneva should ever require a Katisha they have one ready-made. Antoinette Fares wields a pretty whip as she urges on the earthly workers.

The presiding genius, though, remains Savary as he puts his performers - animals, insects, singers, dancers - through their spectacular paces in an evening of... well... pure lunacy.

● The final performance tonight is televised in Switzerland. The BBC and Channel 4 should have their spies watching.

Paul Griffiths looks back on European Music Year

Handel and Bach supreme

A sense of utter rightness: Ann Murray in the title role of ENO's *Xerxes*



Nineteen eighty-five was European Music Year, though nobody explained whether it was a year for celebrating European music or rather just any old music year that happened to have been dropped down in Europe this time round. Not that it mattered: just try escaping from European music in Europe at any time. Typically, of course, the Proms confused matters by making it American music year, but nothing could disguise the fact that European Music Year was simply a means to channel a dribble of EEC funds music's way. One wonders if they ever heard about it in Helsinki or Belgrade.

Even so, anything that boosts music is more than welcome; one wishes only that some of the beneficiary projects could have been better planned. My most easily rejected invitation of the year was to an EMI conference in Rome on the State of Composition Today. And in England one of the notable damp squibs was the European Baroque Orchestra. Conceived with the estimable aim of exposing young musicians from around Europe to tuition from some of the most distinguished exponents of baroque music, it produced a string of distinctly mediocre concerts, apparently because little thought had gone into the administration.

One excuse for the misbegotten EBO, and indeed for having a European Music Year at all, was of course the extraordinary conjunction of tercentenaries. Inevitably Domenico Scarlatti was elevated by the mighty figures of Handel and Bach; perhaps his case could have been helped by EMI-sponsored prizes for being able to identify all his sonatas from the opening two bars (though I also like the idea of a competition for coherent accounts of Handel opera plots to be written in the space of a *Times* review; this competition would by no means be closed to the producers of the ENO *Xerxes* or the Scottish Opera *Orlando*).

My own meanderings through European Music Year suggested that Bach has been best served by the record companies and Handel by the opera houses. Among the Bach recordings, Andrew Parrott's EMI version of the B minor Mass was a delightful rediscovery of a masterpiece out in a landscape of fresh, pure colour and pastoral grace. And I suppose it was a not dissimilar sense of rightness that marked out the English National Opera's production of *Xerxes*. Handel is ready meat to producers who want to make a production around the opera; the distinction of Nicholas Hynes's staging was that he realized these alternatives and worked within and between them.

But *Xerxes* was only one among an extraordinary num-

ber of stimulating productions from the ENO this year, including *The Bartered Bride*, *The Midsummer Marriage*, *Akhmet*, *Orpheus in the Underworld*, *Faust* and most recently *Don Giovanni*. One might have reservations about one or two of these; one might hope to God one never has to see *Akhmet* again; but all of them buzzed with the excitement of a theatre that is doing important work and knows it. If comparisons have to be made, then the only similar excitement at Covent Garden came from two productions in the autumn: of Stockhausen's *Donnerstag* and of a pair of Zemlinsky operas, the latter borrowed from Hamburg.

New productions in Cardiff and Glasgow were still less happy. The Welsh National Opera's love-affair with directors from Eastern Europe produced an outrageous *Don Giovanni*, a bizarrely incoherent *Rigoletto* and what was by contrast a curiously restrained *Così fan tutte*, while their budget *Ring* stumbled dully to its conclusion. Scottish Opera also had an ill-advised new opera by Edward Harper on *Hedda Gabler* and Anthony Burgess's misconceived attempt at a rescue of Weber's *Oberon*.

In the concert hall, many of the plums came in the Mahler and the Twentieth Century festival, which was elevated both by Claudio Abbado's conducting (in perpetual battle with the Barbican Hall acoustics) and by a wide-ranging choice of accompanying works. It needs to be remembered that this festival brought decent-sized audiences to hear the music of Luigi Nono, Brian Ferneyhough, Harrison Birtwistle and others, proving once more, as the ever-valuable work of the London Sinfonietta continues to prove, that there is a public for contemporary music if it is well played and intelligently programmed.

And it is for what is now new music that 1985 will be musically remembered (if not for the next august threesome, currently brats squawking their heads off in Eisenach or Halle or Naples). My guess is that the twenty-first century will not be seeing many performances of *Higglety Pigglety Pop!*, the Oliver Knussen opera that had its second unfinished premiere at Glyndebourne in the summer. But I would be surprised if Peter Maxwell Davies's Third Symphony, introduced in Manchester in February, repeated at the Proms and now available on record, is not being played alongside his Eighth (the one with the solo nude crumhornist in the finale). And I would take a bet on more being heard of two younger composers, Judith Weir and David Matthews, both of whom seem to have made giant strides this year. It was not such a bad time for European music.

Opera

Triumphant teamwork

La Calisto
Royal Court

There are two ways to bring seventeenth-century opera to life. One - the more difficult - is to play it as it was but to such a convincing degree that you can take your audience back in time with you. And the other is to bring it up to date, transmuting old conventions into new ones. That is what David Freeman has opted for in his production for Opera Factory London Sinfonietta of Cavalli's sexual comedy *La Calisto*, and second time round (the piece was done in tandem with Tippett's *The Knot Garden* a year ago as the company's triumphant opening gambit) it still works utterly brilliantly.

Much of the reason for that, of course, is Freeman's insistence upon teamwork and upon the ability of his singers to treat their singing only as one vital facet of their art among many. And here it is true to say that although characters such as Calisto, Jove (in both his guises), Diana and, later, Juno do naturally emerge as dominant, that is because of Cavalli, not because of overbearing stage personalities. The supporting roles, right down to the brief appearance of two Furies, are all sparklingly effective, if sometimes rather in the manner of the bit parts in *The Benny Hill Show*. And the music is uniformly marvellous, often teasingly sumptuous.

What a perfect idea, among many, to cast Satirino, the rampant boy eager for his first taste of the forbidden fruit, as a would-be macho rugby player engaging in some frantically zealous training with his

team-mates Pan and Sylvano. That would be ridiculous enough, but here the role is sung by a woman, Linda Kitchen, a play which serves to pour yet more scorn upon the sexual roles we play. On the other side of the coin, so to speak, are the figures of Nature, Eternity and Destiny, who appear at the beginning as beauty queens preparing themselves before their mirrors. They reappear at the end, when Calisto, who is sung with radiance and richness by Marie Angel, is crowned among them, a crocodile tear or two and a television point of the lips completing this wonderfully absurd, pointed scenario.

And there is more, since one of Diana's followers, Linfa, is played by Nigel Robson (also, confusingly, the rugby-playing Pan) in a rather fetching virginal white slip, which is several degrees more pantomime-like than Jove's manifestation as Diana. The same person, the definitely feminine Christine Botes, sings both the *echt* character and the assumed one. As you can see, it is all very confusing, although Paul Daniel's edition of the score, which is necessarily cut but includes much that Leppard's old edition omitted, cannily keeps the farce from straying beyond our comprehension.

There are excellent performances, too, from Omar Ebrahim, a roller-skated Mercury, and from Brian Gordon as the lovelorn but ultimately triumphant shepherd Endymion, despite a counter-tenor voice that seems uncomfortable in the lower register. But I liked best of all Janis Kelly's Juno, a veritable Joan Collins of a figure. Paul Daniel directs a small and competent band of early instruments.

Stephen Pettitt



Mercury on roller-skates: the excellent Omar Ebrahim

Theatre

The Go-Go Boys
Lyric Studio, Hammersmith

One cheering thing about the work of Howard Lester and Andrew Alty is that they have managed to write and perform a play about male homosexuality without using the word "gay". Let other toilers in this field take note that it can be done. That, however, is about the only thing *The Go-Go Boys* does exclude; and, at least as a non-stop variety show, it fully reflects the authors' note that their work was "born out of the conviction that there is far more to masculinity than we have been led to believe".

Their method is to tell the

story of a friendship between the straight Brian and the homosexual Steve, and repeatedly interrupt it with sketches illustrating sexual stereotypes and bigotry. The effect is that of a "straightforward" narrative illustrated with lurid cartoons. Unlike the cartoon figures, the named characters have the capacity to change.

Brian rescues Steve from being mugged, and then backs away in alarm from the affectionately grateful victim; but he is still prepared to take on Steve for private judo lessons though he draws the line at taking him round to the pub. Steve, on the other hand, acquiesces Brian without any serious thought of getting him into bed. Growing friendship

overrides the differences between them.

In contrast, the partners show a series of "closed-minded" examples of sexual hatred: a pack of grunting macho barroom gorillas changing to desperately inhibited father and son inquisitions, a menacing vigilante hounding a homosexual social worker out of his job, and a quiz show where the right definition of clitoris turns out to be "a lattice-work garden fence".

I have a nasty feeling that the authors intended those scenes to exert a real critical bite. In fact, they come over as grotesque inventions far removed from actuality. What they do offer is the pretext for Lester and Alty to play a lot of parts;

thus dispelling the tedium that always threatens to engulf two-men shows, and revealing them as comic performers who are as much at home as fruitfully untrustworthy politicians, lustfully fantasizing teenagers and figures of idiot authority.

Where the piece does score detailed points is in the ongoing story of the two friends: as where Brian expresses his nausea at the idea of being curled up with a man, while curled up with Steve in a judo hold; or where, back to back, they face a mob of skinheads and express human loyalty in terms of sexual defiance. At such moments, the piece emerges as deliciously funny and deadly serious.

Irving Wardle

Television

When rock was hard

The seasonal mood of sentimental goodwill continued with a documentary which was virtually an archaeological investigation into British rock 'n' roll - Mr Parnes, Shillings and Pence (Channel 4). This was ostensibly about Larry Parnes, who managed a stable of home-grown rock 'n' roll talent in the late Fifties and early Sixties. Tommy Steele, Marty Wilde, Billy Fury, Joe Brown and George Form were his best-known properties, and any leaning the programme might have had towards biography was rapidly overpowered by their rose-tinted reminiscences.

Parnes, from a Jewish trade family, discovered his first musicians playing in Soho coffee bars for ten shillings a night - Marty Wilde was so broke he used to walk back home to Greenwich, and Tommy Steele hopped on the bus from Bromptonbury with his guitar.

A Parnes contract could initially get them £1.50 plus ten bob fare money, rising to the dizzy heights of £50 a week. The management cut was 40 per cent - "if he'd taken 90 per cent it would still have been worth it", said Wilde.

Joe Brown recalled haggling over a one shilling tip given to a taxi driver, having had to haggle for the right to take taxis at all, despite a weekly appearance on Jack Good's television show. The Parnes view was that a threepence tip on a nine shilling fare was perfectly adequate. He made Brown sign for a ten shilling advance, but, looking back, the musician's amiable view was that battling such stinginess was good fun.

This was rock 'n' roll when it was barely out of the egg, long before the days of corporate rock, image advisers and video. The culmination of Parnes's talent-spotting venture was a series of punishing tours which hurried the singers the length and breadth of Britain, playing one-night stands. They were billed as "healthy, happy young entertainers", and not allowed to wear Panstik on Sundays.

With the exception of Billy Fury, whose history of ill health

led to his death at the age of 42 from heart failure, the Parnes boys reassembled twenty years on as healthy, happy, middle-aged entertainers, and it was tempting to conclude that his hard school of showbusiness had been a proving fire.

Persuaders (Channel 4) was a film about a different group of visibly healthy, happy, young people - the Hare Krishna devotees. The focus of the film shifted between a glamorous former model who saw herself as an attractor for Krishna-consciousness, the singer Hazel O'Connor's blend of open-mindedness, scepticism and common sense, and the visit of an American spiritual master whose arrogance seemed less than transcendental.

The film was unconsciously struggling against the British prejudice against any group which caters to the spiritual needs of the young.

Celia Brayfield

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155	140	224	222	BP Services	338			-1	
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FINANCE AND INDUSTRY

Executive Editor Kenneth Fleet

Hanson is to Thatcher as Slater was to Heath

Margaret Thatcher, the grocer's daughter from Grantham, is already the most significant figure in the history of the City of London as a financial centre. More than monarchs, chancellors and Bank of England governors, she has changed the City's shape and character - in ways which this year will become visible to every naked eye.

Within months of becoming Prime Minister in 1979, Mrs Thatcher had swept away price, dividend and exchange controls, turning the City into an open market virtually unhampered by government restraint. On October 27 this year - the day when stockbrokers' fixed minimum commissions officially disappear in one "big bang" - the City will become a truly competitive market. The Financial Services Bill, which legislates for the perceived consequences of deregulating the Stock Exchange, is one of the most far-reaching measures of this or any other Parliament. The financial services industry, which extends across the spectrum of money-changing, is about to experience the same discipline - harsh competition in a cold climate - which manufacturing industry had to bear on the first Thatcher years.

Mrs Thatcher's belief in market forces is a doctrine the City understands and when applied to others, entirely supports. The privatization programme is a double blessing: it pushes ingrown and bureaucratically run state industries into the invigorating air of the private sector and creates profitable work for the City. The floating of British Telecom was a dream: stockbrokers made so much money from commissions alone that they were making gifts to charitable causes - an estimable thing but rare.

As if the privatization programme were not enough the Government's most complete withdrawal from the monopolies and mergers market has sustained a huge volume of remunerative takeover activity. The ordinary traffic of politics has occasionally shunted a contested bid into the Monopolies and Mergers Commission; otherwise the Government has been content to let the judgement of the market prevail. The new year dawns with six block-busting bids, each worth more than £1 billion and only one of them, so far, uncontested.

The year of the big bang

The Stock Exchange's big bang on October 27 is but 299 days away, and as 1986 bursts upon us it does not seem a day too long. The publication of the Financial Services Bill a week before Christmas brought home to many of the City's practitioners the extent of the disarray surrounding the approach to the far-reaching changes about to break upon the business of investing and selling investment advice.

The Bill was rushed out in a badly cobbled-together state before the holiday to ensure that it caught the parliamentary timetable. Much remains to be tidied in committee; not least the extent of the powers to be vested in the Securities and Investments Board by the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry.

That will have a direct bearing on the amount of autonomy which the self-regulatory organizations will enjoy under the SIB's aegis. Intense lobbying can be safely predicted for the early weeks of the new year, but the signs are that Sir Kenneth Berrill will be taking an increasingly firm grip on his recalcitrant charges. He has already let it be known that the SIB will be more like New York's Securities and Exchange Commission than some of the cosier cliques in the City would like to see.

The Stock Exchange, which must at the outset have seen itself as the most senior of the SROs, has had an early taste of Sir Kenneth's acerbic logic. He has indicated that recognized investment exchanges should make their facilities available to all members of SROs. That would create the

Takeovers by more dynamic management of the sloths are the fastest way of restructuring industry. They are thus Thatcherism, in its true meaning of making British industry lean, fit and competitive, made real. The opportunities have brought forward the men, notably Sir Owen Green of BTR, Ralph Halpern (Burton) and the most totemic of all, Lord Hanson of Hanson Trust. As James Slater was the emblem of the frenzied activity of the early 1970s, Lord Hanson is the symbol of the 1980s. Through successful takeovers and the rigid application of financial controls he has made a lasting impact on major companies in several basic, slow growth sectors.

Hanson Trust's fiercely opposed £1.9 billion bid for Imperial Group will mark a major turning point - for Hanson, for the market and for Mrs Thatcher. Imperial's hard and determined Geoffrey Kent, in alliance with the Prime Minister's favourite Anglo-Scott, Sir Hector Laing (United Biscuits), which has agreed a merger with Imperial) is capable of beating Lord Hanson in a bare knuckle fight.

With the next general election in the forefront of ministerial minds, the climate of political opinion is already changing. Measures to improve efficiency are again affecting asset-stripping labels and jobs are agreed to be more important than closing redundant factories.

Relationships between Government and City have now entered a deteriorating phase. Traders with very long memories are recalling the bad-tempered exchanges between this Government and markets as long ago as 1979. Honouring Clegg and cutting taxes at the same time produced a collapse in confidence and interest rates soared into the upper teens.

The Government was forced into a series of public disavowals of policy aberrations before markets were sufficiently soothed to allow business to proceed as usual. The fact that the Government now appears to be boxed in on both fiscal and monetary fronts does not, of itself, look like a vote-winning package. Both City and Government need to move with some care in 1986.

Tempus choice, page 20

possibility that the powerful international securities houses, embracing the likes of Goldman Sachs, Morgan Stanley and Nomura Securities, would be able to have all the advantages of Stock Exchange membership without the disadvantages in terms of being bound up with the rule changes due to take place on the stock market in October.

That serves only to underline how the balance of power is being tilted. It may be that the Stock Exchange, seeing the full extent of the forces arrayed against it, will mount a decisive rearguard action. But the old order has probably been condemned to a very short-term lease.

The foreign invaders have already claimed a significant slice of market share. They have the money to see out the initial losses, pay for the inevitable teething troubles and install the necessary regulatory safeguards. But their principal preoccupation this year will be with the mundane housekeeping problems of lowering the cost base and amassing an adequate corpus of trained staff.

There will be some forays into new marketing initiatives in 1986, but most of the big players expect to keep their powder dry until 1987 at least. Some like the clearing banks and American Express and Citicorp, have an infrastructure which can be easily galvanized into a real force, both at the wholesale and retail levels.

But without the internal controls it will not be feasible to strike out in what is certain to be a highly unpredictable battleground.

Fears for US growth as trade deficit heads for \$160bn

By David Smith, Economics Correspondent

The United States trade deficit is likely to have reached \$145 billion (£100 billion) last year and is expected to widen to \$160 billion this year. The deteriorating deficit will act as a drag on growth, forecast at 4 per cent this year by the Administration.

It also raises doubts about whether the dollar has fallen enough to begin eliminating America's trade imbalance. The merchandise trade deficit in November was \$13.68 billion, up from \$11.45 billion in October, and against market forecasts of \$11 billion to \$12 billion. It brought the deficit for the first 11 months of 1985 to \$131.8 billion, compared with \$115.4 billion in the corresponding period of 1984.

The November's deficit increase also occurred in spite of a healthy export performance. Exports rose by 3.5 per cent to \$17.98 billion, with increased overseas sales of aircraft and parts, office equipment and agriculture products. Cars and other manufactured exports held up well. However, imports surged by 9.9 per cent to \$31.66 billion, with sharp increases in imports of cars, telecommunications products and electrical machinery.

The deficit with Japan in November was \$4.58 billion, a big increase on October's \$3.20 billion. The deficit for the year as a whole will near \$50 billion, with a cumulative \$44.6 billion already recorded for the first 11 months.

The dollar has fallen by 30 per cent against the mark over the past 10 months - on New Year's Eve it dipped another two pence to DM2.44.

Normally this would be expected to produce the so-called J-curve effect of an initial

US merchandise trade balance	
(\$ billion)	
1975	+1.7
1976	-17.3
1977	-39.2
1978	-42.4
1979	-40.4
1980	-38.4
1981	-35.9
1982	-42.7
1983	-59.4
1984	-123.3
Jan-Nov 1985	-131.8

Source: US Department of Commerce

worsening in the deficit because imports suddenly become more expensive, followed by a later improvement as trading partners adjust to the new rates.

However, the strength of imports well after the dollar's fall suggests that the deterioration in the trade balance has further to run than was first thought. The conditions pre-

dicted by the Reagan Administration for this year, with strong consumer spending acting as the engine for an overall growth rate of 4 per cent are exactly those in which the trade deficit could be expected to worsen, in spite of a more favourable exchange rate.

The 4 per cent forecast compares with an estimated 2.8 per cent last year, with the minority of outside forecasters expecting little or no acceleration on growth.

The Administration thinks that any rise in inflation as a result of the dollar's decline will be modest. A rate of 3.8 per cent is projected, as measured by the gross national product deflator, against 2.9 per cent last year.

The optimistic growth forecast for this year was given a boost by figures for new home sales, released on Tuesday. These rose by 7.7 per cent in November, recovering most of October's 7.8 per cent drop.

Institutions hold key to Britannia

By Cliff Feltham

A last-minute plea to City institutions to avoid a stalemate in the £280 million takeover battle for Britannia Arrow has come from Mr Alastair Morton, chief executive of Guinness Peat, the bidder.

Guinness Peat holds 29 per cent of Britannia Arrow, a rival financial services group, but a concert party spearheaded by Mr Robert Maxwell, the publisher, has grabbed a 23 per cent holding.

A large chunk of the Britannia shares is in the hands of traditionally loyal small shareholders.

Mr Morton said: "It is going to be tight. The outcome is in the hands of the institutions. I don't think they would welcome a stalemate where our offer failed, leaving us with nearly 30 per cent of Britannia Arrow, Mr Maxwell holding nearly the same amount, and the institutions having a similar amount."

However, all the indications point to a close result when the offer closes at 3.30 pm tomorrow. The bid has been thrown into confusion by the intervention of Mr Maxwell, who, in addition to his holding in Britannia, acquired a stake of 1.75 million shares in Guinness Peat.

He has already started to sell some of the shares, seen as a ploy to depress the Guinness Peat price and frustrate the bid. But the shares have shrugged off the sale and Guinness Peat's banker, Morgan Grenfell, has pledged to pick up any shares Mr Maxwell sells in the market.

Lloyd's capacity to underwrite increases 29%

By Alison Eadie

Lloyd's of London's capacity to write insurance business has increased from \$5.6 billion in 1985 to \$7.3 billion in 1986, a rise of 29 per cent.

A total of 3,087 new members or "names" started underwriting from yesterday, bringing the overall number of names at Lloyd's to 28,597. The increase in capacity came more from existing names, where nearly 9,000 raised their premium income limits, than from new names.

Alston Brooking Agencies, a Lloyd's managing agent, has bought the managing agency business of Brooks & Dooley (Underwriting) in an effective management buy-out. ABA will manage marine Syndicates 338 and 361, with a combined capacity of £21 million, and run off the business of Syndicate 89.

An offer of more than £2 million is likely to be made to names on Syndicate 89 in the next few weeks in compensation for funds that were channelled into the Fidentia Marine Insurance Company of Bermuda by two former directors, Mr Raymond Brooks and Mr Terence Dooley. Mr Brooks was expelled by Lloyd's in December 1984 and Mr Dooley suspended for 21 months.

Oftel to step up scrutiny of BT

By Bill Johnstone

Technology Correspondent

A series of investigations will be launched this year by the Office of Telecommunications, the telecommunications industry watchdog, to ensure that British Telecom does not abuse its powerful trading position.

Oftel will examine any possible cross-subsidizing of new services and check for any unfair use of information obtained by Telecom about its network customers and for any indications to customers to buy its equipment in preference to other suppliers.

Professor Bryan Carsberg, the director general of Oftel, said: "1986 will be a year of making the competition work. We will assess how that is working in 1987 and 1988 and determine the effectiveness of that competition."

Cross-subsidization - where a service cost can be underwritten from the profits of another, so providing unfair competition - is an issue which has been concerning Oftel as Telecom has expanded its range of services.

The decision by the Government on Monday to allow computer data networks to be



Professor Carsberg: pursuit of fairer competition

licensed and deemed to be a value added service - like electronic mail or voice answering services - is expected to encourage more such competition. Oftel intends to ensure that Telecom gives them a fair chance to compete.

Until now such computer networks - called data management services - were not considered as a value added network.

The new licensing procedure has been welcomed by Oftel, whose investigations this year

will indicate whether suppliers of services and equipment can compete with Telecom and what measures might be needed - including curtailing Telecom activities - to ensure that competition is encouraged.

Equipment supply is a large concern for Oftel and it wants to make sure that Telecom is not stifling competition.

Professor Carsberg said: "We are about to conduct a survey on apparatus supply. We will seek to satisfy ourselves that no unfair inducements were made to the customers when they purchased equipment."

Wiring is another area of concern. Companies buying private automatic branch exchanges (PABXs) - electronic telephone switchboards - from a supplier other than Telecom have to provide their own wiring.

If Telecom supplies the equipment the wiring can be rented, so minimizing the capital investment. Oftel fears that there could be an abuse.

Professor Carsberg said he expected to negotiate a change soon with Telecom to ensure fairer competition.

Business failures at a seven-year low

By Jeremy Warner, Business Correspondent

The number of business failures in England and Wales fell last year for the first time in seven years according to a survey by Dun & Bradstreet, the business information company.

Total failures fell to 20,943, a 3.5 per cent drop compared with the 1984 figure and the first annual fall since Dun & Bradstreet began its survey in 1979.

A rise in company liquidations from 13,647 to 14,363 was offset by a sharp drop in bankruptcies among individuals, firms and partnerships. These fell by 18 per cent to 6,580.

Mr John Dawson, the public affairs director of Dun & Bradstreet, said: "While company insolvencies rose by 5.2 per cent over 1984, this rise was more than compensated by a substantial decrease in bankruptcies among individuals and private firms."

"He added to this, new business growth remains strong and business failures, viewed within the context of government statistics, are only running at 1.4 per cent of the business world," he said.

London and the South-East was the worst hit area for company failures followed by

GEC sued in US by Plessey

By Our Business Correspondent

The Plessey Company has begun legal proceedings in the United States against the General Electric Company, alleging that GEC has failed to extend its £1.2 billion takeover offer to Plessey's American shareholders.

The purpose of the proceedings was to secure equitable treatment for its 3,000 American shareholders who were at the moment being deliberately excluded from the bid, Plessey said.

Plessey has lodged its complaint with the Delaware district court, claiming that GEC is not complying with its obligations under United States law even though the offer purports to have done so.

The suit also claims that GEC has failed to make proper disclosure of material facts that Plessey shareholders in the United States need to know in order to decide whether to accept or reject the GEC offer.

GEC's offer document stated that "the offer is not being made in, and this document must not be distributed into, the United States." GEC said it could not comment on Plessey's action.

Traders face tough adjustments

COMMODITIES REVIEW

I have never understood the passion in the Press for annual reviews. If you are professionally engaged in the business reviewed you should know it all anyway; if you are not, you are probably uninterested.

In any case, such surveys are usually too general to be useful. So this week let us take a stab at previewing London's commodity and futures markets in 1986.

I think the coming year will be a very important for London as a commodity centre. A wise professor once told me that all ages are ages of change. But some changes are more far-reaching than others, and in some periods such changes are more numerous.

We leave 1985 with the markets in a curious state. The contrasts are extreme. On the whole, the fundamentals have been pretty dismal. Commodity prices are still very low in real terms, and nobody can say when or how they will rise.

The exceptions, such as coffee, are the result of unusual circumstances, and are offset by falls, the most spectacular of which has been oil. Sluggish industrial demand and sluggish consumer markets have allied with tightly restrained stockholding to depress trading volumes, and with them commissions.

The London International Financial Futures Exchange (Liffe) is the only one among the main markets that obviously flourishes. Its foray into options has been successful, and

some interest rate and bond contracts are trading respectable volumes.

Against that, the London Metal Exchange (LME) is mired in the worst commodity crisis to hit the City in a generation.

The London Commodity Exchange's (LCE) balance sheet is marked by several exceptional items: the appointment of Mr Saxon Tate as the first full-time executive chairman; a serious search for new contracts which has led to the revived crude oil contract and, in conjunction with others, the Baltic International Freight Futures Exchange (Biffex); and perhaps its most telling achievement in many years, putting its weight behind the now completed formation of the Association of Futures Brokers and (AFBD).

New year will be the year of regulation. The passage of the investor protection legislation, however modified by lawyers in both Houses of Parliament, will alter the climate and practice of London commodity trading more extensively than any law since the imposition of war-time controls.

Although the law is, of course, intended for the whole City, its impact on commodities trading will be particular. For a start, it was a series of commodity investment scandals which helped to set the legislative machine in motion.

More substantially, the

commodity exchanges were the most unregulated - the most self-regulated, according to taste - of the London markets. They will therefore find the adjustment to life under the Securities and Investment Board, the AFBD, the Self-Regulatory Organizations, the Recognized Investment Exchanges and the other sets of initials sent to plague us, more onerous than most.

But this will not be the only uncomfortable change. The shake-up just beginning at the LCE will proceed vigorously. The rearguard action to maintain the present obsolete and positively disruptive structure of separate terminal market associations will be protracted, but ultimately futile.

Mr Tate will enlist a high-powered PR man in his campaign to reshape the LCE. His brief will be better to present the case of commodities trading in the corridors of power.

Structural changes must also take place at the LME. The fall-out from the tin crisis will bring improvement of the clearing and contract monitoring procedures, the departure of several members, stronger administration, and perhaps the abolition of the dual board and committee. The tin contract, however, will survive.

While these organizational changes grind their way forward, there will be births and

IN BRIEF

Mexico cuts oil price

Mexico is cutting its crude oil prices by an average of 90 cents a barrel, retroactive from December 1. This is the second decrease in a month.

The state petroleum monopoly, Pemex, said the next price change will be announced "sometime towards the end of January." Retroactive to January 1.

Mexico normally announces new prices during the last week of every month, applicable to the first day of the following month, however, a Pemex source said the change was due to erratic conditions on the world oil market.

Britoil contract

Britoil is to sign an agreement in Bangkok under which it will take 100 per cent of a large offshore block in the Gulf of Thailand. The company already has onshore concessions in Thailand.

Catering merger

Imperial Foods is merging the catering arms of its frozen foods suppliers, Ross Foods and Young's Seafoods, to create a business with turnover greater than £100 million. As Ross Young's Foodservice, the business will hold about 12 per cent of the frozen catering market. There is no plan to merge the retail side of the business.

ICI has emerged as the sixth most profitable of the world's pharmaceutical companies but no British company is among the top 15 in terms of total sales, according to the *Scrip Pharmaceutical Company League Table*.

Boschert sold

BICC, the engineering and construction group, has completed the sale of Boschert, the loss-making manufacturer of power supplies for the computer and electronics industry in the United States to Computer Products for \$19 million (£13.2 million).

Bank go-ahead

Henry Ansbacher & Co, the Bank of Yokohama, First National Bank of Maryland, Postbank (UK) of Finland and Trustee Savings Bank Scotland have joined the institutions whose bills are eligible for discount at the Bank of England.

Beecham deal

Pantry Pride of the US said it had sold Revlon's proprietary products business, consisting of Revlon's Revlon Tissue, to Beecham Holdings, the US offshoot of Beecham Group.

Hawley stake

Hawley Group has raised its stake in Bregreen, the idiosyncratic cleaners, to 11.3 per cent from 9.7 per cent.

The newly knighted Sir Derek Palmer has taken a pay cut of more than £40,000 to £71,254 as chairman of Bass, the brewers and he says in his annual report: "Trading in the current year has exceeded that for the same period of the previous year and the outlook is good."

BA accounts

British Airways' report and accounts for the year to the end of March were published on December 17 at the same time as its interim results for the first half of the current year. On Tuesday *The Times* gave the publication date as last Monday, when the accounts were made widely available to the public. We apologise for the misunderstanding.

\$83m sale at Union Carbide

Union Carbide, the US chemicals group, said it has agreed in principle to sell nearly all of its worldwide chromium, tungsten and vanadium metals businesses for \$83 million (£58 million).

The group said that with the previously announced sales agreements of engineering polymers and composites business for \$210 million and its films packaging business for \$230 million, total sell-offs under its restructuring programmes had reached \$523 million.

Union Carbide said the sell-offs would have little effect on reported earnings.

Base Lending Rates

ABN Bank	11 1/2%
Adam & Company	11 1/2%
BCCI	11 1/2%
Citicorp Savings	12 1/2%
Consolidated Crds	11 1/2%
Continental Trust	11 1/2%
Co-operative Bank	11 1/2%
C. Hoare & Co	11 1/2%
Lloyds Bank	11 1/2%
Nat Westminster	11 1/2%
Royal Bank Scotland	11 1/2%
TSB	11 1/2%
Citibank NA	11 1/2%

† Mortgage Base Rate.

Firms miss EEC loans

British businesses are failing to make the most of European Economic Community loans and grants because they are unaware of what is available according to the Confederation of British Industry.

The CBI today launches a drive to inform companies about the various European sources of finance and to persuade them to take advantage of the schemes.

A guide has been produced which provides an outline of what is available including support for the regions.

Finding Money in Brussels, a Businessman's Guide to Sources of European Community Finance, CBI Publication Sales, Centre Point, 103 Oxford Street, London WC1A 1DU, £6.50.

MARKET SUMMARY

STOCK MARKETS	
Latest close and change on the year	
FT Ind Ord	1131.4 (+179.1)
FT All Share	381.88 (+48.42)
FT Govt Securities	82.81 (+1.1)
FT-SE 100	1412.6 (+180.4)
Bargains	18.378
Dataseam USM	105.88 (+1.24)
New York	
Dow Jones	1548.67 (+335.1)
Nikkei Dow	13,083.18 (+1525.12)
Hong Kong	
Hang Seng	1752.42 (+552.04)
Amstar	255.6 (+73.7)
Sydney: AO	1003.7 (+274.7)
Frankfurt	
Commerzbank	1961.8 (+943.7)
Brussels	
General	943.48 (+785.18)

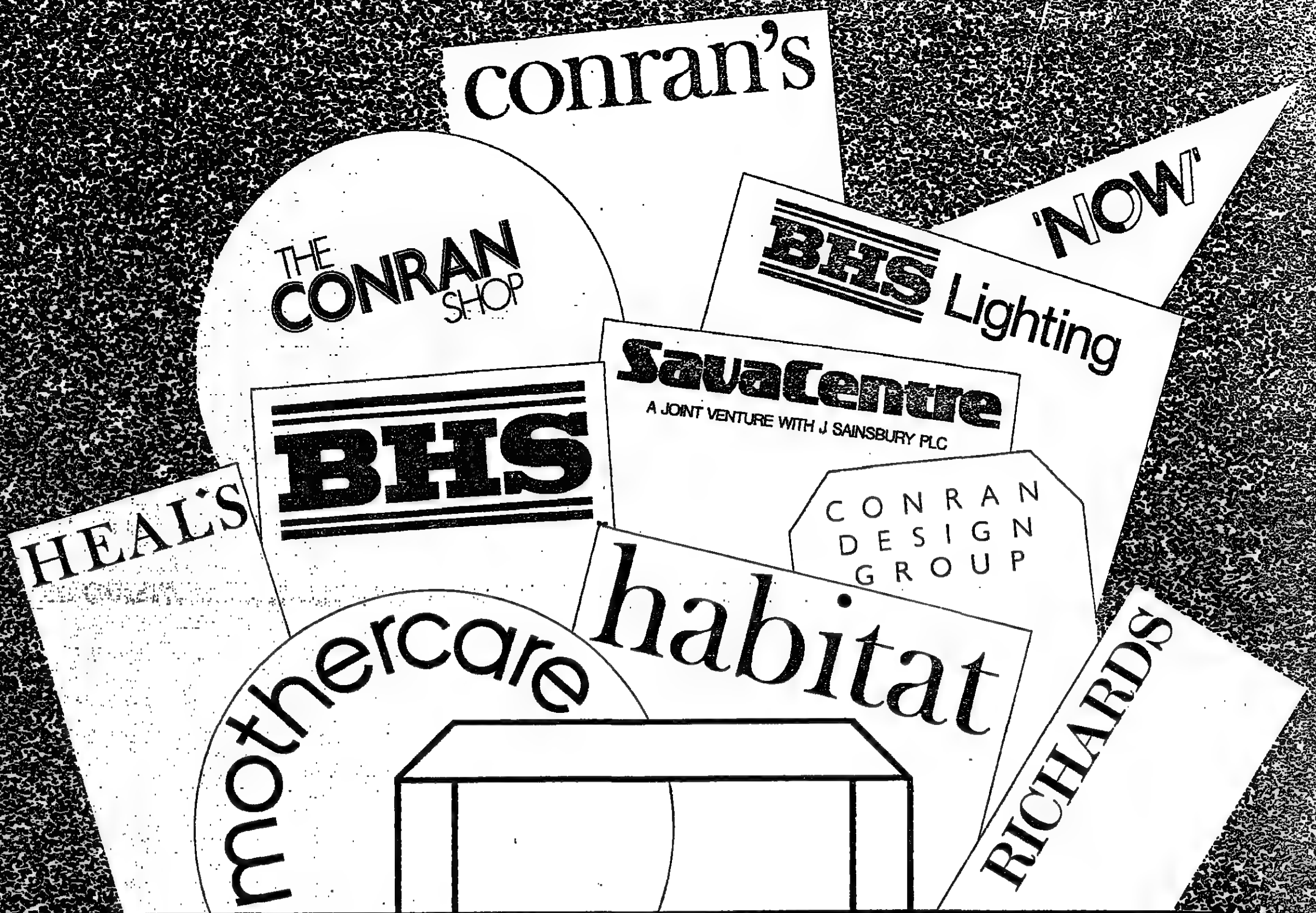
GOLD	
London fixing: 3-month - Closed	
close \$327.00-\$327.00 (\$228.50)	
227.00	
New York	
Comex \$328.95	

MAIN PRICE CHANGES	
RISERS:	
CPU Computers	40p +8p
Lois	1.75p +0.25p
Assoc Brit Eng	7p +1p
Securguard	71p +10p
Offield Inspection	75p +10p
Audiomatic	4p +0.5p
Leopold Joseph	33p +40p
Cifer	3p +1p
ERF	39p +4p
Sennah Rubber	2250p +200p
Yorklyde	250p +22p
Pict Petroleum	113p +8p
Zygal Dynamics	23p +2p
E. Upton	43p +4p
G. Davies	109p +7p
Unigate	238p +13p

FOREIGN EXCHANGES

STERLING SPOT AND FUTURE RATES	
Market rates close	Market rates close
Day's range	Day's range
Bank rates	Bank rates
Forward rates	Forward rates
Gold prices	Gold prices
Exchange rates	Exchange rates
Commodity prices	Commodity prices
Stock prices	Stock prices
Bond prices	Bond prices
Interest rates	Interest rates
Money market	Money market
Real estate	Real estate
Energy prices	Energy prices
Transportation	Transportation
Insurance	Insurance
Shipping	Shipping
Telecommunications	Telecommunications
Media	Media
Technology	Technology
Healthcare	Healthcare
Food and Agriculture	Food and Agriculture
Metals and Mining	Metals and Mining
Chemicals	Chemicals
Pharmaceuticals	Pharmaceuticals
Automotive	Automotive
Aerospace	Aerospace
Defense	Defense
Government	Government
Non-Profit	Non-Profit
Education	Education
Environment	Environment
Energy	Energy
Infrastructure	Infrastructure
Manufacturing	Manufacturing
Services	Services
Retail	Retail
Finance	Finance
Insurance	Insurance
Real Estate	Real Estate
Healthcare	Healthcare
Technology	Technology
Telecommunications	Telecommunications
Media	Media
Transportation	Transportation
Energy	Energy
Food and Agriculture	Food and Agriculture
Metals and Mining	Metals and Mining
Chemicals	Chemicals
Pharmaceuticals	Pharmaceuticals
Automotive	Automotive
Aerospace	Aerospace
Defense	Defense
Government	Government
Non-Profit	Non-Profit
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Infrastructure	Infrastructure
Manufacturing	Manufacturing
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Retail	Retail
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Insurance	Insurance
Real Estate	Real Estate
Healthcare	Healthcare
Technology	Technology
Telecommunications	Telecommunications
Media	Media
Transportation	Transportation
Energy	Energy
Food and Agriculture	Food and Agriculture
Metals and Mining	Metals and Mining
Chemicals	Chemicals
Pharmaceuticals	Pharmaceuticals
Automotive	Automotive
Aerospace	Aerospace
Defense	Defense
Government	Government
Non-Profit	Non-Profit
Education	Education
Environment	Environment
Energy	Energy
Infrastructure	Infrastructure
Manufacturing	Manufacturing
Services	Services
Retail	Retail
Finance	Finance
Insurance	Insurance
Real Estate	Real Estate
Healthcare	Healthcare
Technology	Technology
Telecommunications	Telecommunications
Media	Media
Transportation	Transportation
Energy	Energy
Food and Agriculture	Food and Agriculture
Metals and Mining	Metals and Mining
Chemicals	Chemicals
Pharmaceuticals	Pharmaceuticals
Automotive	Automotive
Aerospace	Aerospace
Defense	Defense
Government	Government
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Food and Agriculture	Food and Agriculture
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Non-Profit	Non-Profit
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Food and Agriculture	Food and Agriculture
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Chemicals	Chemicals
Pharmaceuticals	Pharmaceuticals
Automotive	Automotive
Aerospace	Aerospace
Defense	Defense
Government	Government
Non-Profit	Non-Profit
Education	Education
Environment	Environment
Energy	Energy
Infrastructure	Infrastructure
Manufacturing	Manufacturing
Services	Services
Retail	Retail
Finance	Finance
Insurance	Insurance
Real Estate	Real Estate
Healthcare	Healthcare
Technology	Technology
Telecommunications	Telecommunications
Media	Media
Transportation	Transportation
Energy	Energy
Food and Agriculture	Food and Agriculture
Metals and Mining	Metals and Mining
Chemicals	Chemicals
Pharmaceuticals	Pharmaceuticals
Automotive	Automotive
Aerospace	Aerospace
Defense	Defense
Government	Government
Non-Profit	Non-Profit
Education	Education

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TEMPUS

Westland may hold the key to markets in 1986

Traders spent the run-up to Christmas enthusing over the resurgence of London share prices. But performance, like truth, is relative. Compared with other world bourses, London was pedestrian.

Looking at world markets in sterling terms, London managed an improvement of 16 per cent. A random selection of the rest of the European bourses shows Austria pushing ahead by 101 per cent, France by 47 per cent, West Germany by 74 per cent, Italy by 81 per cent, and Switzerland by 48 per cent.

In world terms, London outpaced Wall Street, lagged behind Hong Kong, and kept pace with Tokyo.

This dismal showing would be of marginal importance, were it not for the wholesale politicization of the London market which stems from the privatization programme. The Government is publicly committed to raising cash through the equity market to offset the impact of its more expansionary fiscal policy. A weak market, with huge "dog" stocks overhanging it, could become even weaker during 1986.

Is this, whisper the bears, the end of the road for what has been one of the most *bravura* examples of government in modern times? As the oil begins to run out, and a commitment to low inflation targets apparently ruling out a compensating devaluation, is the Government poised to re-enter the policy straitjacket which has shrouded so many of its predecessors?

Bulls and bears alike are united on one point. This Government has shown a remarkable ability to survive, mainly by redrawing the pitch and shifting the goal posts, long before the opposition realized that the game had even started. Can Mrs Thatcher do it again?

US exports

The Westland imbroglio assumes a seminal importance in this context. The US has managed to secure a very competitive devaluation through the G-5 agreement, which ought to benefit US corporations very substantially in about 18 months' time or however long it takes for the "J" curve effects to work through. The American net export position ought to improve, with US companies clawing back from their European competitors the market

Tighter policies

And if Mr Heseltine wins? The line of argument so far encourages the view that this would amount to slamming the door on US bids to find a cheap way into Europe. Lordship would probably signal the trend of the last few months, declining in the process to around 1,000 or below, as tighter policies prevailed.

The logic of the argument is clear. London is a strong buy on bid hopes if the Americans win the bid for Westland on a kind of *Gunsight At The OK Corral* approach. Otherwise, London is at best a hold, since other markets should do better.

The potential for a comparatively schizophrenic market - characteristic of the Chinese Year of the Tiger - should encourage investors to be shrewd rather than bold, concentrating on special situations, not sectors, and recovery stocks rather than out-and-out speculation buys.

Timber companies are notoriously cyclical so their shares offer all the thrills of a big dipper. The downside can make you queasy but the upside blows the mind. The next 12 months should see the turning point, benefiting the sector as a whole and Meyer International in particular. Meyer's profits are still

	Price
General Electric Co	166
Grand Metropolitan	336
Inchcape	303
Meyer International	186
Triplevest Trust	770

under pressure and could even fall slightly in the year to March. Thereafter they could rise from £29 million to more than £40 million in two years. That reflects the effect of a slight increase in demand on huge fixed costs, notably stocks of imported timber.

At 186p they are trading on only nine times this year's likely earnings.

Consumer spending looks set fair for another buoyant year so Grand Metropolitan (198p), the Berni Inns, Watneys and Intercontinental hotel group, should perform well. The company has sorted itself out in recent months, buying businesses in America, predominantly in the health care industry, and selling dual performers.

This year should see profits rise from £347 million to between £380 million and £390 million, suggesting a p/e ratio of nine. That is well below the market average, a fact which says more about the City's view of Grand Met's recent past than of the company's prospects for 1986.

For an investment with a difference, we recommend one of the select group of split-level investment trusts. The peculiar feature about these trusts is that they have to be wound up and their assets distributed to shareholders at some specified date in the future. Like the shares of other investment trusts, they tend to trade at a discount to net assets but the fixed life of split-level trusts means that the discount is bound to disappear by the time the trust is wound up.

Share package

We particularly like the look of Triplevest Trust, run by Montagu Investment Management and Schroder Wagg. At 770p, the capital shares are currently trading at a discount of some 34.5 per cent to the value of net assets, as estimated by Laing & Co. The shank, the broker. That discount should disappear before the trust is wound up, anytime between 1987 and 1991.

Investors looking for income as well as capital gain could buy a package of, say, four income shares to one capital share to give an average discount of 24 per cent and a yield of 5.4 per cent.

For the recovery stock of 1986 we are looking to Inchcape, the overseas trading group. Last year the shares collapsed from 455p to a low of 293p, but they seem to have turned the corner in recent weeks. Yesterday they were trading at 303p.

The reason for this has probably more to do with expectation of the new management than with the company's trading. With Far Eastern markets such as Singapore and Malaysia depressed, this alone is unlikely to attract much of a following.

Tough style

But George Turnbull, the new managing director, could. He took up his position more than a year ago after a successful career in the motor industry and it looks as if his tough style may be just what is needed to make Inchcape perform.

At their current level, the shares yield more than 9 per cent, which is a full point higher than the p/e ratio. That suggests a re-rating is in order.

Our punt of the year is The General Electric Company (166p), the idea being that a Plessey-GEC combine could beat the world and British Telecom.

The attractions of the acquisition for GEC shareholders are undoubted. The offer has been pitched so that GEC could even increase the terms without any fear of earnings dilution. And that is before counting in the huge savings that would arise from putting the two groups together, or the competitive edge the group would then have.

There are, however, one or two risks with this purchase which we readily acknowledge. First, GEC may not succeed with its bid, at least not at its current level. There is also some doubt as to the position of the Monopolies and Mergers Commission.

At worst, without Plessey, the shares are likely to continue to underperform the rest of the market, but they are hardly likely to collapse. At best the gain could be tremendous.

STOCK MARKET REPORT

Unigate shares up 13p amid takeover talk

By Pam Spooner

The old stock market year went out in true 1985 style, with tales of huge mergers keeping market men in business.

There was talk that Unigate will be the next multi-million pound group to receive a bid from a company smaller than itself - in keeping with the examples set by Argyl Group and Distillers, Elders DXL for Allied-Lyons, United Newspapers for Fleet Holdings and Guinness Pect for Britannia Arrow Holdings.

The potential bidder for Unigate is Hillsdown Holdings, the market men say, with Hillsdown valued at £385 million, against £525 million for Unigate. Both values are based on Tuesday's share prices of 233p, up 7p, for Hillsdown and 238p, up 13p, for Unigate.

Hillsdown has been on an aggressive acquisition trail, picking up the furniture maker, Walker & Homer, and Needlers, the sweets company and having a bite at Pyke Holdings.

But these takeovers by Hillsdown are small fry compared with any attempts on Unigate, and a big issue of Hillsdown paper looks to be the way to do it. As a result, the rise in the Hillsdown price is being put down to support from the foods, to furniture group's broker, Hoare Govett.

Mr Christopher Chaitow, of the broker, Simon & Coates, puts a strong buy tag on Babcok International shares. He expects the price to break sharply out of its 130p-180p trading range and head for 220p in the short term and 270p beyond. However, analysts of the fundamentals at Babcok consider that it will not make the hoped for profit of £40 million this year.

The City firm denied any such action on Tuesday, saying the rise in the Hillsdown price had come from end of the year share buying by another broker, Hill Samuel.

Mr George Stuart-Clarke told the City there has been no bid approach from Unilever and no thought of a defensive link-up with Beecham with Guinness, the drinks group.

That was a disappointment for those who had been hoping for yet another takeover among the top 30 shares.

Shares in Pyke Holdings, the meat supplier, jumped 20p to 395p on Tuesday as the climax of the bid from Hillsdown Holdings draws near. The two boards have agreed terms - valuing Pyke at 435p a share at the last closing price. The Hillsdown offer closes on Monday, but market men hear that Mr Terry Beesden will make a full rival offer.

through the relatively small slip in the Beecham share price suggests such hopes still survive.

For the rest of the leading shares there was little action. The FT-100 share index ended 1985 on a dull note, down 1.6

points at 1311.4, and the FT-SE 100 share index dipped a point to 1412.6. Trading volume was a lowly 18,379 bargains.

On the Hanson Trust-Imperial Group bid front there was further talk of a raid on the latter's shares by Guinness, though there was little sign of the Imps share price. Market men consider that Monday or Tuesday will bring excitement.

There was some movement among second-line issues. Westland, the helicopter maker, dipped 5p to 88p as the City waits for more news on the rescue fund.

Traded options business suffered from the end of year slowdown, with total volume for the day reaching just 6,984 contracts. Of those, 2,734 were accounted for by the Stock Exchange index option in which Tuesday was the December expiry date.

Elsewhere, there was little sizeable demand, though GEC saw 159 and Beecham 532 contracts traded.

COMMERCIAL PROPERTY

Penman's £100m plan set for court test

By Judith Huntley

The battle to develop a £100 million luxury shopping centre at Enderby near Leicester continues into the New Year. The Penman Group, the developer proposing the 1.25 million square foot out-of-town development, is taking its case to the High Court after having its plans turned down for a third time last October after a three-year fight.

The plan which aims to give Leicestershire "West End" shopping facilities in a scheme developed by a private company speaks volumes for the present planning and appeal system. After prolonged and expensive hearings, litigation and public inquiry, Mr Kenneth Baker, the Secretary of State for the Environment, has now decided that the very crux of the argument against the scheme - that Centre 21 no longer stands.

Concern over the impact of such a large retail plan on city centre shopping in Leicester focused on an impact study by the developer revealing that trade would be hit by about 10.6 per cent. Mr Baker turned the scheme down again in October after arguing that this level of impact was unacceptable. This is despite the fact that previous

findings including those of the Department's own inspectors accepted that Leicester was in normal growth and allowable competition.

Mr Derek Penman, the chairman and managing director of Penman Group, says that the High Court action, to be heard on January 22, is being taken over the decision of the Secretary of State.

But even if the hearing goes in Mr Penman's favour he is well aware of the fact that Mr Baker could still refuse him planning permission. If that happens Mr Penman will take action for damages over his plans for the £100 million development. The court costs

to-date on the developer's side alone are over £100,000.

Previous arguments over the impact studies, conducted for the developer by C. L. Hearn & Partners, hinged on new evidence being brought forward by the local authorities concerned which might dispute the 10.6 per cent figure. The firm of Drivers Jonas was commissioned by Leicester City Council to undertake an independent impact study which came up with a figure nearer to a 20 per cent drop in trade for the city centre.

This evidence was produced in court but seems to have had little impact as Penman won its

case to stop another inquiry and make the Secretary of State issue a decision immediately. This resulted in another refusal by Mr Baker on the grounds that a 10.6 per cent drop in Leicester's city centre trade was unacceptable. And that decision had led to the High Court hearing on January 22.

Centre 21, if it finally obtains planning permission, would be a regional shopping centre aimed at the upper end of the market. Mr Penman argues that the development will do little to harm day-to-day shopping in Leicester as he says he is gearing a tenant-mix to cater for luxury goods.

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APPOINTMENTS

Samuel Montagu & Co. Sir Michael Palliser has resigned as chairman, but will remain on the board as a non-executive director. He will continue as chairman of Samuel Montagu & Co. (Holdings). Mr R. F. B. Logan has become chairman and will remain deputy chairman of Samuel Montagu & Co. (Holdings).

Alfa-Laval Engineering: Mr Lars Halden has become chairman. Mr Bo Wirsen has been made managing director. Mr John Bryan and Mr Frank White have also joined the board.

UKO International: Mr David Cutler has joined the board as finance director. Cantrell & Concha Group: Mr George Dmcan has become a director.

Reliance Mutual Insurance Society: Mr L. M. Etheridge has been made an executive director.

Port of London Authority Board: Captain Malcolm Edge, Mr Alexander Macintosh and Mr Andrew Smithers have been re-appointed to the board for a further three years. Mr Michael Boughton has become a director for two years.

Yorkshire Chemicals: Mr Derek Byrne is made chief executive designate of the specialty products division.

Hiram Walker & Sons (Scotland): Mr A. A. Cunningham has been made managing director. Mr J. W. Lawrie is now production director and Mr W. Thornton is director of finance and administration.

Lloyd's Aviation Underwriters' Association: Mr D. J. Peachey has been re-elected chairman. Mr J. P. Tilling is now deputy chairman.



Sir Michael Palliser

John Govett & Co. Mr Dwight Makins has been made managing director.

Wainwrights: Mr Colin Cawood and Mr Bill Cowgill have become directors.

On the Unilever Securities Market the newcomer, Signex International, an electronic engineer, traded at 105p, a modest premium over the 101p placing price. Given the circumstances of the debut - one of the quietest trading days of the year - that was a comfortable performance.

MOTOR RALLYING



The smallest car in the Paris-Dakar rally sets off from Versailles yesterday. The Citroen 2CV, driven by the Frenchman, Pierre David, was cheered away by some of the crowd of 300,000. Police removed 40 demonstrators who tried to disrupt the start of the rally by sitting down in the middle of the road. The demonstrators were protesting at the event which, they said, "represented a monstrous waste in a continent whose people were dramatically impoverished".

YACHTING

Fleet closing in on NZI Enterprise

From John Nicholls, Auckland

The finishing stages of the second leg of the Whitbread Round the World Race, from Cape Town to Auckland, are in complete contrast to the first. Then, gales decimated the leaders and seriously affected the long term prospects of several of the 15 yachts. This time light winds are hampering the approach to Auckland and progress of the fleet during the past few days has been painfully slow. The leader on the water, NZI Enterprise, for example, covered only 90 miles in the 24 hours up to midnight on Tuesday and was being caught as the boats asters found more wind.

Her lead over Atlantic Privateer (Peter Kuitert) was reduced to only 25 miles, but these two boats were still well ahead of the rest. If Digby Taylor in NZI Enterprise can hang on and finish first he is sure of an overwhelming reception when he reaches the waterfront here. Boasting of one sort or another is the second most popular participant sport in the area after rugby and interest in this leg by Philis Invictor (Oz) New Zealand winner of the 7,100 mile leg to New Zealand would set the place alight.

This is the longest leg of the race and was covered in 30 days by Flyer, the eventual race winner in the previous race four years ago. To beat this time the leader must finish by 2.30am on Saturday. It ought to be done, given that NZI Enterprise and Atlantic Privateer were within

300 miles of the finish at midday yesterday. However, head winds will stretch that distance and the local experts expect the leaders to come in tonight or tomorrow morning.

URS Switzerland (Pierre Fehrmann), which finished first in the Portsmouth/Cape Town leg, was lying third yesterday, but to windward of the leaders and possibly better placed to round the north cape of North Island before turning south for Auckland. The British entry, Drum (Skip Novak) was placed fourth with about 460 miles to go, well ahead of her near sister ship Lion New Zealand (Peter Blake).

Blake has a good excuse for losing some ground during the past two days. On Monday night Lion was interfered with by one or possibly two whales which badly damaged her rudder. Her speed has been reduced by a quarter of a knot and the rudder is continuing to break up. It is probably just as well that the sea is relatively slight or she could be in more serious trouble. A rudder has been prepared from the toilet door, previously drilled with holes for just such an emergency and will be used if the rudder fails completely.

L'Esprit d'Equipe (Lionel Pean, France) the handicap winner of the first leg looks like being overtaken on this leg by Philis Invictor (Oz) Naam, Netherlands) which is leading on the water by over 300 miles.

Supporters hope to raise £1m for British entry

By Adrian Morgan

A British America's Cup support club has been formed in the belief aimed to involve the public in the Royal Thames Yacht Club's 1987 challenge. The British Challenge Club aims to raise £1 million, raising boats and a theory paper. The regional trials will culminate at a weekend at the Fleet Mental National Sports Centre, North Wales.

Every competitor will be asked to raise sponsorship for the Association for Spina Bifida and Hydrocephalus (ASBAH). The organizer is Sue Stamp, ASBAH's Upper Woburn Place, London WC1P. A new event for the sailing/wind-surfing calendar is planned for the spring involving the three separate yet inter-related sports of sailing, windsurfing and speed sailing. This "trifurcation" will be held at Saunton Sands, Devon, an area considered ideal for the event.

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Net to catch the salmon shark

By Conrad Voss Bark

The Bill which the Government hopes will reduce the considerable black market in illegally caught salmon will have its second reading in the House of Lords fairly soon when we may have a clearer idea how effective it will turn out to be. It is intended to be a non-controversial measure which can be supported by both commercial and sporting interests to deal with the growth of some poaching which has become a considerable menace in recent years.

It is not, by any means, an answer to the demands of conservation bodies for a national salmon conservation policy, one which would include a ban on all drift netting in England and Wales as was done in Scotland in 1962, and a ban on nylon monofilament nets.

The Bill's main purpose is to create a new offence in Scotland, England, and Wales of possessing salmon, believing, or having reasonable grounds for believing, the salmon to have been illegally taken.

In Scotland this is to be reinforced



by a system of dealer licensing, as with game, but not for England and Wales, presumably because of a strong lobby against licensed dealers by Billigate and Fishmongers' Hall.

A large part of the Bill is taken up by proposals for reforming the Scottish District Fishery Boards, which some riparian owners may dislike, but we must wait for more information on second reading to judge its effects.

In addition to the Bill, draft new regulations in England and Wales for the Northumbrian fishery which takes something like 60,000 salmon in a season on their way back of Scottish east coast rivers, mainly Tweed, is to be restricted to some extent.

The main conservation bodies -

New challenge from US

New York (AP) - The America II challenge, organized by the New York Yacht Club and United States Merchant Marine Academy Foundation, will compete in the 1986 world 12-metre championships in Australia.

The entry of America II marks the first time a New York Yacht Club 12-metre yacht has entered a regatta prior to the America's Cup competition.

Atlantic Salmon Trust, Salmon Conservancy, and Trout Association - have welcomed what they hope may be an effective attempt by Government to tackle the black market in salmon - though why England and Wales, the best out of licensed dealers? But are disappointed that no effective measures of conservation are to be brought in for what they have been lobbying for a number of years.

That conservation is urgent can be seen by the latest United Nations figures of world catches of salmon which show a considerable decline since 1967, when some 2,728,000 salmon were taken by commercial interests and anglers in the home waters of salmon-producing nations, a figure which had dropped to 1,553,000 by 1984, an alarming decrease in 17 years of over 43 per cent.

The UN figures are from ICES, the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea, quoted by RASA (Restoration of Atlantic Salmon in America). They exclude West Greenland, Faroe, and Norwegian fisheries.

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HOCKEY

South shoot to territorial supremacy

By Joyce Whitehead

The South are the first women's territorial champions. They will defend the title on New Year's Eve by beating West 3-0 in the last match of the tournament at Liverpool.

This is the first year that the Territorial Tournament has become a championship. Midlands, winners of the tournament last year, were runners-up, one point behind, East came third, North fourth and West did not score a point.

The tournament began in freezing conditions on December 29. Four matches in 48 hours was a stiff

contest for all five teams and some weathered the strain better than others.

Play was even but the team that came out on top were the best equipped. Two players in the South stood out: Karen Brown (Surrey) and Mandy Franks (Middlesex). They have acquired accuracy in two types of shots to which the other territories had no answer. Miss Brown has a hard and fine-angled shot and Miss Franks has a high, scooped shot from penalty corners, lobbed well above the goalkeeper's reach.

On Tuesday with the championship still wide open Midlands played well to win 2-0 against East, who had apparently shot their bolt the day before, then two penalty goals by Barbara Hamby (Warwickshire) gave them a 2-0 win over North. But South made no mistake against West.

These matches were the final England trials. The 1986 team will be announced on Tuesday.

Results: Midlands 2, East 0; South 2, West 0; Midlands 2, North 0.

Football: Everton's 10 men move into second place after Chelsea's game is called off

Clear skies for United after heavy weather against Birmingham

By Vince Wright

Manchester United yesterday took advantage of Liverpool's newly acquired habit of dropping unnecessary points to increase their lead at the top of the first division. United, by no means faultless themselves recently, made heavy weather of defeating the club in twenty-first place, Birmingham City, 1-0 at Old Trafford. Gibson, United's £250,000 signing from Aston Villa, scored the winner after 47 minutes to take them five points clear.

United's victory was soured by an ankle injury to McGrath, their Republic of Ireland international defender. He was carried off after six minutes but Atkinson's team managed to cope with the set-back. Stapleton moved into defence to replace the youngster, Carron, and they stifled Birmingham's few dangerous moments.

The crowd of 43,095 were growing impatient by the time Gibson struck with a swerving shot which went in off a post. The goal took much of the pressure off United's defence. Birmingham had their goalkeeper, Seaman, to thank for keeping them in contention. Saves from Whiteside and Gibson were especially noteworthy.

Chelsea's opportunity of becoming first division leaders - if only for a few hours - was dashed by the postponement of

their morning match against West Ham United at Upton Park, but Everton, who have climbed into second position, failed to gain maximum benefit in a hot-tempered 2-2 draw at St James' Park. A goal by Steven gave Everton a 1-0 half-time lead against Newcastle United but then an off-the-ball incident led to Newcastle's equalizer after 58 minutes. Bracewell and Sharp, the guilty men, were both cautioned and from the free-kick Gascoigne scored.

Seconds later Bracewell carried off with a badly bruised right shin following a clash with Newcastle's forward, Whitehurst, and when Sheedy left the field injured shortly afterwards the referee, Colin Seel, called the two captains together to calm the things down. With football mercifully replacing feuding, Beardsley put Newcastle ahead with his eleventh goal of the season after 73 minutes. However, Everton's 10 men showed great character and eight minutes from time Sharp scored their equalizer from the penalty spot after he had been fouled.

Arsenal and Tottenham Hotspur did themselves no favours in a barren goalless draw at Highbury but Luton Town made up ground with a 3-1 home defeat of Leicester City. Harford improved his prospects

of playing for England with three more goals to take his tally for the season to 14. His first after 27 minutes was a 25-yard shot and his second was a majestic header from a Thomas cross 20 minutes into the second half.

Leicester, who offered more threat in the second half, pulled a goal back through Bright but five minutes from the end Harford forced home his third. A pity that only 10,917 saw such entertaining football.

The most astonishing recovery of the afternoon was by Nottingham Forest at the City Ground. There were two goals behind to Coventry City but went on to win 5-2. Webb began the fight back with a goal five minutes before the interval and added two more in the second half. Metgod and Davenport were the Forest's other marksmen. Forest's manager, Brian Clough, who has had much to say about other first division managers, said he was delighted that his own returned to winning ways.

Manchester City maintained their recent improvement with a well-merited 1-0 triumph at Aston Villa, who were booed and jeered after their sixth successive home game without a win. Lillis scored the 53rd-minute winner.



Rix down on his back as Waddle slips past him (Photograph: Chris Cole).

The morning-after men struggle to find their feet at Highbury

By Clive White

Arsenal.....0
Tottenham Hotspur.....0

It was an ill-omprent moment to record the first goalless draw at Highbury between these two rivals in 77 years of healthy, productive rivalry. An encouraging crowd of 45,109 had dragged themselves out for the morning kick-off after the night before only to witness a performance which had all the vigour of a New Year's eve reveler who had celebrated to excess.

The performance, however, was undermined by conditions which were more difficult than the crowd, perhaps, realized. The glorious morning sun had only thawed the surface, making football as precarious as that for a novice ice skater. The stalemate brought run of three consecutive good quality victories to a close for Arsenal, who have capitalized recently on the enthusiasm of their youngsters. But yesterday Quinn and Rocastle found the conditions more intimidating than Tottenham and the long-legged Quinn was eventually substituted. Despite spurs of genius from Ardiz, Hoddie and Nicholas, it was regrettably true that the game would be best remembered for one horrendous tackle by Roberts on Nicholas which carried both players off the field, through an advertising hoarding and into the laps of ringside spectators. Robert's "tackle" had all the

finesse of a charging rhino but was hopelessly ill timed - as so many of his challenges this season have been - I do not believe it was malicious. For a moment it threatened to spark a riot as Arsenal players reacted furiously to the referee's decision to merely warn Roberts. Peter Shreeve, the Tottenham manager, said he was disappointed that the referee had not sent Roberts off. He said he was not complaining, and he's an honest lad. Situations in front of the main stand always tend to flare up.

Fortunately tempers cooled before any real damage could be done, the boarding party. The last affected seemed Roberts who 10 minutes later went in a trifle roughly on Davis as if to prove his mental well-being and was booked by the referee with a keenness that suggested he had had self-recriminations about his earlier decision to ignore Roberts. Houghton was also booked for a later foul on Allison.

The football came in fits and starts. Tottenham seemed to take an early hold in midfield though they had nothing tangible to show for it. Arsenal supporters were quick to forget the team's recent strides and Rix was not the only player to sense dissatisfaction among the audience. Yet Arsenal's Nicholas, a prolific scorer in these derbies produced the only first half strike of note, turning a header on to the bar then post with Clemence well beaten.

Tottenham squeezed their grip a little harder soon after the interval and Arsenal were thankful that at least Lukic had not forgotten his

good form of 1985, recovering to save a close range shot by Falco that seemed to have eluded him. The Arsenal defence, in which O'Leary was outstanding, for the most part looked encouragingly secure and confident. Arsenal, desperately missing the driving force of Roberts, who was absent with a groin strain, did not catch sight of the Tottenham goal again until the 78th minute when a move, which had its origins in a neat pass from Rocastle, Roberts's replacement, almost produced a match-winning goal for Quinn. But his goalbound shot was blocked by the loitering body of his friend and confidant Rix.

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ASSEMBLY:

SKIING

Bell's good form fails to press the winner

Schladming, Austria (Reuters) - Peter Winksbarger, of Austria, won his second World Cup downhill race of the season on Tuesday finishing almost a second ahead of Switzerland's Peter Müller.

The race also confirmed the improving form of Britain's Martin Bell, who, for the third consecutive time finished in the top 30 of a World Cup event, coming in 26th in a time of 2min 07.7sec, 3.90sec behind Müller.

The Austrian negotiated the 3,408 metres long Plan de l'Aigle, with a height difference of 1,010 metres, in 1:56.87, at an average speed of more than 105 kilometres per hour.

Müller, with 10 World Cup downhill wins to his credit, was second, in 1:57.84 and Austria's Erwin Resch, winner here two years ago, third in 1:57.92.

Tuesday's win puts Winksbarger on top of the World Cup downhill standings, ahead of Müller. The pair share second place in the overall standings with 90 points, one less than Luxembourg's Austrian-born Marc Girardelli.

OVERALL WORLD CUP STANDINGS: 1. Winksbarger (Austria), 158.87; 2. Müller (Switzerland), 157.84; 3. Resch (Austria), 157.92; 4. Müller (Austria), 158.27; 5. D. Müller (Switzerland), 158.27; 6. H. Müller (Austria), 158.31; 7. F. Müller (Austria), 158.31; 8. A. Müller (Austria), 158.31; 9. A. Müller (Austria), 158.31; 10. A. Müller (Austria), 158.31.

WORLD CUP DOWNHILL STANDINGS: 1. Winksbarger (Austria), 158.87; 2. Müller (Switzerland), 157.84; 3. Resch (Austria), 157.92; 4. Müller (Austria), 158.27; 5. D. Müller (Switzerland), 158.27; 6. H. Müller (Austria), 158.31; 7. F. Müller (Austria), 158.31; 8. A. Müller (Austria), 158.31; 9. A. Müller (Austria), 158.31; 10. A. Müller (Austria), 158.31.

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Corporal Clinger can advance his Champion Hurdle claim

By Mandarini

Corporal Clinger, the leading light of Martin Pipe's talented Wellington team, can underline his Champion Hurdle chance by beating a quality field in the Food Brokers' Hurdle at Cheltenham this afternoon.

The Brum gelding took on top class for the first time on the Bula Hurdle last month and showed he was not racing out of depth by running on strongly up the hill to account for Kesslin and Gaye Brief with the subsequent impressive Kempton winner, Aonoch, among those behind.

Robin Wonder, Out Of The Gloam and Sheer Gold, who finished fourth, fifth and seventh respectively, now re-opened his selection on better terms and a victory in the Food Brokers' Hurdle would be a real feather in his cap. However, the race was very slowly-run and not too much should be read into the bare fact.

Last season, Corporal Clinger won three of his four races, including a handicap over today's course and distance on soft ground and a valuable end-season Haydock prize. His Bula Hurdle victory showed he has gone the right way since last season and this lightly-raced seven-year-old can confirm his arrival in the top flight by following up here.

Robin Wonder, taken out of a valuable Windsor race yesterday to wait for this, is well treated by the conditions of the race and likes Cheltenham but it is 14 miles since his last win.

First Bout was a failure at Kempton after winning well at Ascot and has yet to make this distance. However, he should at least confirm Ascot form with

the disappointing Against The Grain.

The most valuable race on an attractive Cheltenham card is the Food Brokers' Happy New Year Handicap Chase in which Northern Bay looks the pick at the weights. Tom Bill's 10-year-old won twice over four miles or more last season when only a novice and should be a cherry ripe after two races over shorter distances.

The promising Ulas Bator has an excellent chance to gain his first win over fences in the Food Brokers' Dativevic Novices' Chase while Little Bay should defy top weight in the Fairfield Handicap Chase if Phil Tuck can persuade him to put his best foot forward.

Catch Phrase has always looked a good chance in the making and a Josh Clifford appearance, having found a winning opening for him in the World Handicap Chase at Lingfield Park. The Proverb gelding ran well when second to Fulke Walwyn's Gold Cup horse, Contradict, at Worcester last time and that form has been backed by the subsequent Wolverhampton victory of the third horse, Royscript.

My other principal favourites at the Surrey track are Berlin (1.0) and Play Boy (2.0) in the novice chases but with the opposition moderate, the starting prices are unlikely to be attractive.

More rewarding wagers may be Carpentier's Way, who is named to win the McAlpine Challenge Cup at Ayr now that he reverts to his best distance of 2½ miles. Although he has won over three miles and beyond, Denys Smith's eight-year-old ran out of steam on his latest run at Newcastle's testing three miles.

Ten Pies taking command in the Malvern Novices' Hurdle at Cheltenham

Tangognat heartens Simpson

By John Karter

Red Simpson, one of racing's most colourful characters, was glad to see the back of 1985. But if the old year was something of a prologue to his new, the new year has a beginning with the handsome victory of his colt, Tangognat, in yesterday's Steel Plate Trial Hurdle at Cheltenham.

During the past 12 months everything seemed to fall apart for Simpson. Now, he has the new favourite for the Triumph Hurdle (Hill's quote him at 5-1), a horse he believes even better than Refusé, and there can be few better deserving a favour or two from Dame Fortune.

In a sport that has finally, if grudgingly, been joined into training, Simpson provides a much needed dash of flamboyance. And it is not just the colour man - a canny yellow or black leather in a sea of boring pasties - his approachable attitude is a breath of fresh air in an all too staid world.

After Tangognat had left Christian Schand and the rest trailing, Simpson revealed that the horse had not been out of his box for three days and that his teeth had made his last season's easy horse to train.

Despite this Simpson was confident yesterday and is equally confident of greater glory in the Triumph in March. (He will have another run on the course at the end of the month to keep him at constant pitch.)

"Will he win the Triumph?" someone asked clearly, hoping for a little piece of Simpson's money. "It will be much better to win, but by how far?" came the instant reply. Tongue in cheek, certainly, but equally obviously backed by a rock solid belief in a horse whom Peter Scudamore, the vastly experienced winning rider, described as "a very good good one in the making".

That last remark can surely be applied to Ten Pies, who was equally impressive in gaining a third win from three starts this season, in the opening division of the Malvern

Novices' Hurdle. Rated the best horse to have raced the gallop at Fulke Walwyn's stables for many a year, Ten Pies never quite reached the heights expected of him last season.

However, having treated his rivals in the same summary fashion yesterday as he had done on the previous two occasions, the challenging and menacing looking Steel Action was shrugged off in a few strides after the last - it looks as if he is going to take something in the order of a bulldozer to stop him now. The Sun Alliance Hurdle at the Festival in March is his principal objective for this campaign, but he was almost licking his lips with expectation when he said that Ten Pies will only really be seen in the best light over fences.

Alan Jarvis, Steel Action's trainer, found with it somewhat of a surprise when he saw the horse's fortunes compensation when his son, Tim, drove Buranapack back past Deep Improvement in the last 100 yards of the Steel Plate and Selections Young Chasers qualifier.

Tuck is replaced on Burrough Hill Lad

Phil Tuck has lost his job as jockey on top chaser Burrough Hill Lad following two recent defeats. Tuck, aged 29, has won 12 races on Burrough Hill Lad, including the 1984 Cheltenham Gold Cup, but he will now be replaced by Peter Scudamore.

The horse is trained at Lambourn by Jenny Pitman who said yesterday: "I do not want to become involved in the matter. It was the decision of the owner Stan Riley to replace Phil with Peter Scudamore."

Riley's wife, Kathleen, said the reason behind Tuck's dismissal was the horse's poor jumping in recent years. "Burrough Hill Lad does not seem to be jumping well for Philip this season, and we have to do the best for everyone concerned,"

including the horse," Mrs Riley said.

The 10-year-old has made jumping errors in his three races this season. After winning by half a length at Cheltenham, he finished under top-weight in Ascot's Gold Cup, but then turned in his most disappointing performance for years when a well-beaten fourth in the King George VI Chase at Kempton on Boxing Day. He was odds-on favourite on that occasion but made several jumping mistakes.

Scudamore, joint champion jockey with John Francome in the 1981-82 season, is retained by trainer David Nicholson but it has been agreed that he will be free to partner Burrough Hill Lad whenever the horse runs.

Greasepaint back on the Aintree road

From Our Irish Correspondent, Dublin

Michael Smurfit, the Irish millionaire industrialist, who has been nominated by the Irish Minister for Agriculture, Mr Austin Deasy, for a place on the new Racing Board, had further cause for celebration yesterday when his Greasepaint, at long last managed to qualify for this year's Grand National at Aintree.

It was essential that he won a sleepchase before the entries closed and Dermot Weld elected to send him down to Tiamore for the Waterford Crystal Chase. Greasepaint, favourably treated by the conditions, had only four opponents and with Highway Girl, a solitary survivor to jump around was achieved a bloodless victory to score by a distance.

Although Greasepaint has thus avoided the ignominy of failing to qualify for the Grand National in which he has played such a prominent role over the past three years, the victory does serve to spotlight the need for a restoration of the former qualifying condition whereby horses that had been in the first four in a previous Grand National were eligible to run.

Dermot Weld, the trainer of Greasepaint, was foiled in his attempt to overtake the Irish record of 134 winners in a single year achieved in 1923 by J.J. Parkin. The old record survived, thanks mainly to the action of the weather with frost forcing the abandonment of the last day at Limerick, where Weld had a banker Dark Raven,

and then snow on New Year's Day thwarted the Weld three - runner challenge at Punchest

GENERAL APPOINTMENTS Trade 01-278 9161/5

Borough of Brecknock CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Salary Scale £22,194 - £24,414

Consequent upon the impending retirement of the present Chief Executive on 31st July 1986, applications are invited for this appointment (which includes responsibility for the Council's administrative department) at a commencing salary within the above-mentioned scale.

The person appointed will be regarded as head of the Council's paid service and leader of the Management Team and will be the principal adviser to the Council on matters of general policy.

Applicants should have had extensive experience in a legal and/or administrative department of a local authority or similar body.

The appointment is subject to the terms and conditions of the Joint Negotiating Committee for Chief Executives of Local Authorities.

Removal and other disturbance expenses will be paid in accordance with the Council's scheme. Essential User car allowance is also payable.

The provision of temporary housing accommodation would be considered.

The Council's main offices are in the town of Brecon in Mid Wales, amongst the magnificent scenery of the renowned Brecon Beacons National Park.

The successful candidate will be appointed Chief Executive effective from 1st June 1986 to commence the appointment as Chief Executive from 1st August 1986.

Application form and further particulars are available from the undersigned telephone Brecon (0474) 4141 ext. 2041.

The closing date for the receipt of applications is 20th January 1986. E. F. HARGRAVES, CHIEF EXECUTIVE, Brecknock House, 40 The Watton, Brecon, Powys, LD3 7EG.

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Candidates if appointed will be recommended by the Health Authority. Each appointment will be for a fixed term of up to 3 years, renewable by mutual agreement.

Interested candidates will be contacted by Mr W. A. Allen, District General Manager, on (0432) 572812, ext. 2272.

For information package, including an application form, see the attached form.

Mr W. A. Allen,
District General Manager,
Herefordshire Health Authority,
Victoria House, High Street, Hereford, HR1 6AA,
Telephone (0432) 572812, ext. 2272.
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InterExec

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THE BRITISH SCHOOL AT ROME The Post of GENERAL SECRETARY

Applications are invited for the full-time post of Secretary to administer the London office of the British School at Rome. Duties include the servicing of the Executive and several other committees and the organisation of the competitions for the Rome Scholarships in the humanities and the fine arts.

Salary £12,000 Age Limit 55 years

Further information and application form from the Secretary,
British School at Rome,
1 Lowther Gardens,
Exhibition Road,
London SW7 2AA
Tel: 01-589 3665

BUSINESS PROMOTIONS OFFICER

International organisation based in London actively promotes business opportunities to work in its overseas offices. Successful candidates are expected to have a minimum of 5 years' experience in the field of business promotion, preferably in the field of international trade. The successful candidate will be responsible for the promotion of the organisation's products and services to potential clients in the field of international trade. The successful candidate will be responsible for the promotion of the organisation's products and services to potential clients in the field of international trade.

SEXUAL LOCAL MEDICAL

Consultant. Asexual person with medical, legal or other professional qualifications. Will be experienced in the field of sexual health. The successful candidate will be responsible for the promotion of the organisation's products and services to potential clients in the field of sexual health. The successful candidate will be responsible for the promotion of the organisation's products and services to potential clients in the field of sexual health.

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